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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Elizabeth Smart kidnapping: A judge in Salt Lake City has ruled that mental competency hearings for the homeless man accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart must be open, saying that allowing the public to observe would not prevent a fair trial.

Tuesday's ruling ended a monthslong legal fight over the issue, brought by attorneys for defendant Brian David Mitchell.

Mitchell's competency hearings are scheduled for Aug. 31 through Sept. 2.

Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee, are accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart from her bedroom in June 2002. She was found safe nine months later.

Barzee was deemed incompetent to stand trial in January, and is undergoing treatment at a state mental hospital.

Moussaoui case: Rejecting government objections, a federal judge in Alexandria, Va., reaffirmed Tuesday that defense psychiatrists can have continued access to terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema, upholding an earlier ruling, said the prosecution would not be prejudiced by psychiatric interviews or observations of Moussaoui while his case remains on hold.

Missing Utah woman: Mark Hacking, husband of a missing pregnant woman, told a "reliable citizen" witness at a psychiatric ward that he killed his wife as she slept and dumped her body in a trash bin, according to a court document filed by prosecutors in Salt Lake City.

The tip, coupled with another from a neighbor and a bloody knife and other evidence, are leading officers to believe that they'll eventually find the remains of Lori Hacking in a county landfill.

Staten Island ferry crash: Staten Island Ferry pilot Richard Smith pleaded guilty Wednesday to manslaughter in the crash that killed 11 commuters last October, acknowledging that he passed out at the ship's controls after arriving at work with medication in his system. A higher-up in the ferry operation also was charged with manslaughter.

World

Paraguay supermarket blaze: The



JOHN E. WOODS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

All-hands at Atsugi: U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer Manuel Rodriguez speaks during an all-hands call at the base theater at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, on Wednesday. He visited the base to speak to more than 400 sailors about current issues in the Navy.

co-owner of a supermarket and five others were charged with manslaughter for a fire that killed 464 people, after a security guard testified he was ordered to lock the burning store's doors to prevent looting, trapping shoppers inside.

Owner Juan Pio Paiva rejected the allegations as he was brought to jail Tuesday, shouting, "My conscience is clear."

Interior Minister Orlando Fiorotto said Wednesday early evidence pointed to an accidental gas leak as the cause of the fire.

South Asia flooding: The death toll from monsoon flooding in India crossed 1,000 on Wednesday with reports of more than 165 people killed by rains that destroyed crops, flooded highways and halted trains across South Asia.

The toll across South Asia from six weeks of monsoons reached 1,823, according to official figures compiled by The Associated Press.

Nearly 130 deaths occurred in India's western Gujarat state over the past three days in remote areas unreachable by roads or telephone, said state spokesman I.K. Jadeja.

Sudan protests: More than 100,000 people staged a state-organized protest Wednesday

day in Khartoum, Sudan, against a U.N. Security Council resolution giving Sudan 30 days to stop Arab militia violence in Darfur or face economic and diplomatic penalties.

Protesters also warned that Sudan could become a battlefield like Afghanistan or Iraq if foreign military forces enter this African country to try end the 17-month Darfur conflict, which has killed 30,000 people, forced a million from their homes and left an estimated 2.2 million people in urgent need of food, medicine and other basics.

Jenkins case: Accused U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins will meet with a U.S. military attorney soon to discuss his case and legal options, the Japanese government said Wednesday.

Jenkins, 64, is accused of deserting his Army platoon in South Korea in 1965 and defecting to the communist North. He has been hospitalized in Japan since last month.

Japanese news reports say the meeting will come on Friday, but Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda would not say exactly when the meeting would take place.

The military lawyer will be sent from a U.S. Army base in South Korea, and Japanese news reports said the counsel could arrive as soon as Thursday.

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"A real big bright flash" and a day of horror

Hiroshima survivor recalls blast, aftermath and how he learned to forgive

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Minoru Furuta was born in America, raised in Japan and graduated from high school in California. He's worked in the Netherlands, England, Switzerland and Germany. In the U.S. Air Force, he served in Vietnam, posed for photos with President Kennedy, attended a nuclear-weapons school in New Mexico and claims to have cheated death at least seven times. But nothing in his life is as seared in his memory as the images from Aug. 6, 1945. That was the day he survived the nuclear bomb the United States dropped on Hiroshima.

On that August morning, the Enola Gay, a U.S. B-29 bomber, killed atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima, effectively ending World War II with a blast that leveled the city and killed an estimated 220,000 people. Furuta was 6 at the time, living in Funairicho City, just across the river and less than a mile from the impact area.

"I was playing with a chair on the porch, banging a hammer on the chair. I saw a real big bright flash," recalled Furuta, 65, who lives just outside the Yokota gates. He works on the management staff at the base's 100 Yen Shop.

"Fortunately, our two-story house crashed down. It collapsed and didn't catch fire. I had caught fire, I'd be dead."

In 1941, with the United States on the brink of entering the war, Furuta said he was sent to live with relatives — a woman and her 4-year-old son — on the outskirts of Hiroshima. His parents remained in America with an uncle and aunt but soon were placed in an Arizona internment camp.

The first atomic bomb ever used in war exploded with the force of 12,000 tons of TNT, historians say. The heat from the explosion topped 50 million degrees Fahrenheit at the fireball's center.

Because Furuta and his relatives were underneath the collapsed house afterward, he said, they were not exposed to the toxic



Rubble was almost all that was left in Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, after the explosion of the first atomic bomb dropped on Japan. Minoru Furuta was 6 years old at the time and remembers the devastation well. A relative was killed, another never found. Now 65, Furuta lives just outside the Yokota Air Base gates.

flames that consumed the city. Those above ground suffered radiation burns.

Furuta said he was trapped until about 4 p.m. that afternoon, when he managed to free himself from the debris.

"The field was very, very hot," he said. "I woke up, crawled out from underneath the building. Then, I realized that the 4-year-old brother and his mother were screaming from the center of the house."

Looking down, he noticed his index finger dangling limply, attached only by the skin that held it on his right hand. It had likely been sliced by flying glass, he said.

Perhaps in shock, Furuta felt no pain as he gazed upon the devastated landscape. "I see my finger, but don't feel any hurt or nothing," he added.

He found a man standing outside, grasping a stick that extended from the ground up to the middle of his chest. He remembers asking for help, but soon made a horrific discovery.

"He was dead, but standing upright," Furuta said. "Then, he fell down."

So the young boy, acting on instincts, began pulling away the home's wreckage to free his family.

"Even now today, I couldn't be-

lieve myself that I had that much power," he said. "I moved all the lumber to the side. I don't even have consciousness of what I'm doing."

The bridge separating his house from Hiroshima was destroyed. The river, he recalls, contaminated by radiation, was filled with dead bodies. The large, emergency water tanks set up in various neighborhoods were stacked high with more people who had fought to escape them.

The seven rivers dividing Hiroshima got tides from the ocean. When the tide was up, it was full of dead bodies," Furuta said. "At low tide, the banks were covered with dead bodies. It didn't horrify me. The only thing I remember was me trying to get away from that place."

He wound up at a Red Cross facility set up in Eba, in another section of the city, and a nurse put a splint on Furuta's nearly severed right finger. At about 5 p.m., just before darkness, he and his two relatives went to Koi, where he received a single bowl of rice.

Later that night, they took a 90-minute train ride to a village called Kawane-mura, where the woman's in-laws lived. Without any extra clothing or supplies, she and the two boys took refuge in a water well house outside the home.

The woman's husband, who'd gone to work at a cracker factory in Hiroshima before the bomb was dropped, was still missing. Every other day, they'd return to the city to search for him.

"I remember the piles of dead bodies there. They poured gasoline on them and set them on fire, but sometimes, you'd hear screams coming from inside" the piles, Furuta said. "The Japanese army did that to prevent the spread of disease."

The woman's husband never was found, and about a month later, the woman died, Furuta said. The two boys soon developed symptoms of radiation sickness, lapsing frequently into unconsciousness.

On the morning of the woman's death, he said, the neighbors found a sunshower fish next to the water house. The creature, shaped like an alligator, is widely known in Japan and can crawl on hands and feet.

"A neighbor caught it and made soup out of it," Furuta recalled. They poured the soup into their mouths every hour. The following day, our temperatures went down, and we were able to walk around."

"That fish saved my life." For the next four months, he said, the two boys lived in the main house. But infections began appearing, and Furuta's hair start-

ed falling out. "The infections were so bad all over, I can't even wear clothes," he said.

Sent back to Hiroshima about six months later to live with a great uncle, Furuta spent the next six years getting various checkups and treatments aimed at rebuilding his strength and fighting off the infections. At age 11, he received penicillin shots for 200 straight days.

His joints became infected, and led to chronic pain that plagued him for decades.

"If I sit still for 10 minutes, I get deep aching inside," Furuta says. "I've been carrying that for over 50 years."

Before turning 18, Furuta opted to return to America to maintain his U.S. citizenship. As a high school senior in El Cerrito, Calif., with poor English skills, he said, he befriended a physics teacher who'd once flown B-29 reconnaissance missions over Hiroshima. The man showed him photographs of the city before the bombing.

Drawing on the teachings of a Buddhist minister he visited as a boy growing up in Japan, Furuta says he found the ability to forgive, and that became the foundation for his life.

"I don't have nothing against him," he said, referring to the teacher and former B-29 pilot. "A lot of people question why I don't have hard feelings but I have seen the suffering of that man's over and finished. You've got to look forward."

"The preacher told me you must love the people. I've always kept that in mind. Don't focus on the negative. Always be positive. In your heart, you must have peace and forgiveness."

Furuta said he briefly attended the University of California at Berkeley but joined the U.S. Air Force in 1959. He spent 20 years in the military, serving in such places as Vietnam, England and Okinawa. He retired as a technical sergeant.

"I said he was motivated by a simple desire."

"He never thought I'd be a soldier to fight in a war but you need the military for world peace," Furuta said. "I thought I might do something good."

There were hardships in the military and a language barrier. But I got through somehow."

And he lived to tell about it.

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Expansion plans for Ikego housing area may draw lawsuit

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

The Japanese city hosting U.S. Navy's Ikego housing area may file a lawsuit against the Japanese government if the government does not retract the plan to expand the housing area.

Zushi City Mayor Kazuyoshi Nagashima submitted a letter addressed to Defense Facilities Administration Agency Director General Shoji Yamamoto on Tuesday stating that the city will seek a legal decision if the government does not call off the plans or respond by Aug. 23, the city base affairs official said.

"We are in the situation where we have no choice but to take legal action and seek legal decision in order to solve this problem," the letter stated, adding that Zushi residents are concerned about the destruction of greenery in Ikego if additional housing is built.

The Japanese government announced in July 2003 its plan to build 800 additional housing units at Ikego, which will replace the housing lost when four Navy facilities in Yokohama are returned to Japanese control. Ikego, near Yokosuka Naval Base in Kanagawa Prefecture, comprises 717 acres of land lying in Zushi and Yokohama cities.

Zushi city claims the government is breaking a promise made in 1994 not to build additional facilities. However, the government said the additional housing will be built on the Yokohama side of the housing area and is not breaking the promise.

"The mayor at the time ... said the agreement on housing construction was made including the area in Yokohama city," the official said.

In the past year, Nagashima has submitted letters requesting Japanese government officials as well as U.S. officials to call off the plan. Nagashima met with Defense Agency Chief Shigeru Ishiba last month and was told the plan could be called off.

Nagashima resigned as the mayor in August 2003, after the government's announcement to expand Ikego. He sought a voter mandate to oppose the plan of construction plans in the subsequent mayoral election and won.

A DFA spokesman confirmed receiving Nagashima's letter but declined to comment.

If the city decides to take legal action against the government, it will need approval by the city assembly, the official said.

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Rush urged to extend military ballot deadline

BY ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of votes from U.S. troops overseas could go uncounted again in November without emergency legislation extending deadlines for the ballots, a Chicago election official warned President Bush on Tuesday.

Nearly 30 percent of military voters who requested ballots in 2000 didn't get them in time to vote.

Theresa M. Petrone, a Democratic member of Chicago's three-person Board of Election Commissioners, told Bush in a letter that the problem could be solved if he proposed emergency legislation giving election officials up to 14 days after Election Day to collect and count ballots.

Deadlines vary, but most states, including Illinois, require that ballots be received by Election Day.

Other states, including Ohio and Florida, count them up to 10 or more days later, as long as they were signed by Election Day.

"Every election cycle, election authorities see that Chicago receive military absentee ballots days or even weeks after the deadline, thus disqualifying many votes from being included in the election tally," Petrone wrote. "With hundreds of thousands of military personnel serving overseas, the voting bloc obviously could determine the outcome of our next presidential election."

White House spokesman Ken Lisau declined to comment, saying he hadn't seen the letter.

Congressional leaders have opposed amending the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and such emergency legislation is unlikely before November.

The handling of military ballots was a major issue in the ballot recount in Florida in 2000 that led to Bush's victory, when election officials rejected hundreds of military absentee ballots, many because they lacked postmarks or signatures.

With many more troops overseas now because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, military voting could be an even bigger issue this year.

Some 250,000 absentee ballot request

forms were sent to military personnel overseas who asked for them in 2000, while 340,000 already had been sent as of mid-July for the Nov. 2 election, said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Joe Richard.

Critics have accused the Pentagon of doing little to improve systems for getting ballots to and from servicemen.

A report by the Defense Department's inspector general in April said problems hadn't been fixed, and a required study by a new voting commission on getting ballots to military and other overseas voters is overdue.

Still, Richard said the military — from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on down — is working to raise awareness among troops and improve methods by the U.S. Postal Service.

Atsugi helo squadron commander surpasses the 3,000-hour mark

BY JULIANA GITTNER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — It's like spending 125 straight days in the air.

On Wednesday, helicopter pilot Cmdr. Eric Patten, commanding officer of HSL-51, The Warlords, passed his 3,000th hour of flight on a routine trip from Atsugi Naval Air Facility.

In line with aviation tradition, Patten's squadron doused him with a fire hose after landing to celebrate the achievement.

"The hosing down might not be enjoyable but the fact that you're getting hosed down is important," he noted. "It's taken a career to get there."

Patten, 41, has served 19½ years in the Navy. Two-thirds of his flights have been in a SH-60B Seahawk — his current and favorite helicopter in terms of its mission. With his unit, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light, he hunts subs, saves lives and protects ships and strike groups from enemies.

His favorite aircraft overall, however, was the fast and agile Lynx, which he flew in missions and air shows with the Royal British Navy in England during the start of his career.

Patten said he couldn't even guess how many flights he's made in his life.

The Seahawk runs out of fuel after 3½ hours so most flights are considerably shorter. To reach 3,000 he must have flown at least 1,000 flights over his career, not counting the years spent on the ground, while earning his master's degree at the Navy War College and serving in Washington, D.C.

Patten learned about aviation from his father, an Air Force helicopter pilot.

"I always wanted to be a pilot," Patten said. His father "said the



SPINE CALL: Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Cmdr. Eric Patten, commanding officer of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light 51, surpassed 3,000 flight hours while flying over Tokyo on Wednesday.

best pilots he'd ever flown with were the Navy aviators."

So Patten came aboard and joined the Navy. But at 6 feet 2 inches tall, he didn't fit well in a fighter jet cockpit. He switched to the roomier helicopter, and enjoys flying rotary-winged aircraft.

"I love flying helicopters," he said. "I've done things in a helicopter you could never do in a jet. I've landed on beaches; I've landed on baseball fields. I've even landed on a Kentucky Fried Chicken."

Some of the unusual stops were in connection with rescue and disaster relief missions. Many of his memorable flights involved saving lives, including six years ago when he saved a sailor on the USS O'Brien while it sailed near Australia.

It took a nine-hour flight with two fuel stops but the sailor made it to safety.

"That part of it [gives] incredible job satisfaction," he said. "When you medevac somebody and you save their life."

Another memorable flight occurred while carrying reporters during a flight with the British navy.

"I had a gearbox failure on take-off, which is a significant problem," he said.

The failure heavily damaged the aircraft and he guided it back to safety. The press aboard later called him the "jovial American pilot, [even] after a life-threatening flight."

Most of Patten's life has been spent overseas, first growing up in Australia where his father served an exchange tour. With the Navy, Patten spent three years in England and later served in Japan on three occasions.

His current tour at Atsugi has spanned five years. He was executive officer of the Warlords before taking command in January.

The tour has enabled him to work in and lead what he considers the best squadron. Its motto is "Doing things others only dream about."

Since activation in 1991, the squadron has earned six Battle Es for efficiency and five Capt. Arnold Jay Isbell Anti-submarine Warfare Awards.

Like most aviators, Patten credits his crew for his accomplishments.

"Without the squadron, 3,000 hours wouldn't have been achievable," he said. And while the milestone is nice, it doesn't signal the end, he said.

"As a youngster you say, 'I'm only going to do this 'til it's no longer fun,'" he said. "This is still fun."

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Japanese flag to be returned

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Japanese flag that was carried into the Battle of Okinawa by Ippai Sasaki, a 21-year-old Japanese soldier who fought in World War II, is scheduled to be returned to his family in a ceremony at 10 a.m. on Friday in front of the 374th Airfield Wing headquarters building, according to a base release.

Betty Wilson Tarp received the flag from an Amer-

ican soldier following World War II, the release stated. Her son Jim, and Brian Shiroyama, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, both of Morgan Hill, Calif., tracked down the soldier's younger brother in Tokyo through Takahiro Ichikawa, a member of the 374th Security Forces Squadron. Shiroyama and Ichikawa were friends when he was stationed at Yokota.

Yokota residents are invited to the hour-long presentation, which will take place at the flagpole.

From staff reports



Fred Garcia, general manager of the Negishi Club, accepts change from cashier Helen Narita at the Negishi Heights Navy Exchange. The exchange was awarded the Bingham Award for fiscal year 2003.

Negishi Heights NEX Mart gets a big award

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

One thing the military has lots of is ribbons, medals and awards. But for the Navy Exchange, there is one great honor, once a year, that can be striven for: It's the Bingham Award.

For the first time since the early 1990s, according to Pat Patterson, NEX human resources manager for Japan, and the second time since the awards were instituted in 1979, the Negishi Heights NEX Mart has taken home the gold. The NEX Mart was named best NEX in the "small stores" category for fiscal year 2003.

The best out of some seven to 10 other small exchanges, Patterson said, mainly because, "they had a very high customer service index," which is retail-ese for satisfied customers.

Additionally, Patterson said, the store's 26 or so employees were unusually happy and loyal, and the store also met other winning qualifications: cost-cutting, goods availability, contribution to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program and other measures indicating how well the store was doing its mission.

Negishi's store is a relative rarity: a combination Navy Exchange and commissary store. While selection may be more limited, it's

possible to buy hamburgers and batteries in one stop.

The Bingham award's namesake was Capt. W.H. Bingham, who helped establish the Navy Exchange stores in the 1940s. He decided they should be operated like a chain of retail stores and staffed by civilians, except for top management positions held by naval supply officers. The stores now number 109, as well as 187 ship stores and 41 Navy Lodges.

Before the NEX chain was established, sailors had to rely on ship stores, which replaced ship canteens, which replaced bumboats — small vessels that in the 1800s pulled beside Navy ships and sold cheap goods for high prices.

All the Negishi Heights employees were feted at a breakfast Tuesday at which NEX dignitaries congratulated them — on the clock, Patterson said — and were given boxes of chocolates.

Among them was manager Alice Zamora, who said she was pleased and surprised by the recognition. "My boss put in for it," she said.

But would the Bingham mean a raise for Zamora?

"I hope so," she said. But even if it didn't, Zamora said, "I will continue to provide the service to the community."

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Negligent discharges a problem in Afghanistan

Pritchett sees 'disturbing trend' as more troops injure, kill themselves and others

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — In the past 18 months, troops in Afghanistan have accidentally killed themselves or others at least six times and wounded nearly two dozen more troops through unsafe weapons handling, according to Army statistics released to Stars and Stripes.

In what military officials call negligent discharges, last year troops mistakenly fired their weapons 24 times in Afghanistan, injuring 19 and killing four.

So far this year, five troops have been wounded and two more have been killed in 16 accidental discharges.

In the same time frame, 24 troops have died from combat-related injuries in Afghanistan.

The top enlisted soldier in Afghanistan called the spate of accidental firings a "disturbing trend" and took leaders to task recently for failing to enforce basic standards to prevent the mistakes.

"Ineffective training, ineffective supervision, negligence, inattentiveness and outright indiscipline are all contributing factors," Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett wrote in a recent column for the military's weekly newsletter in Afghanistan.

Pritchett penned the column after seeing six negligent discharges in her Kabul headquarters over the past two months.



Although no one was injured in any of those accidents, Lance Cpl. Russell White wasn't so lucky.

Assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, White was the most recent fatality in Afghanistan when a fellow Marine mistakenly shot him in the head with a 9 mm pistol on June 20.

Spc. Jason Perkins knows he — or one of his buddies — narrowly escaped becoming the next fatality.

A 22-year-old combat engineer with the Louisiana National Guard, Perkins shot himself in the foot with his M16 rifle July 6 at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan.

Perkins' rifle was on safe, but when his weapon caught on part of his uniform the bolt slammed forward, chambering a round and discharging.

"I feel pretty stupid," said Perkins, who's still recovering at Kandahar. "I'm just so glad I shot myself and not someone else."

Perkins did two things wrong, according to standard safety regulations: He left the bolt pulled back, and he should have paid attention to where the weapon was pointing.

Those are two of many things soldiers, and their leaders, need to pay attention to, wrote Pritchett. "Muzzle control, selector switch operations and fire discipline are critical to weapon safety. Whenever you see a safety violation, correct it. A moment's inattention can lead to disaster."

Forgetful fire

The statistics in Afghanistan do not include suicides and friendly-fire incidents such as the one that left former professional football player and Army Ranger Pat Tillman dead after a firefight in April.

Instead, negligent discharges could more appropriately be dubbed "forgetful fire."

"Very few of these incidents



PHOTOS BY JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Above and lower left: A soldier demonstrates safe handling of his weapon. Army statistics show increasing incidents of unsafe weapons handling in Afghanistan. In the past 18 months, troops in Afghanistan have accidentally killed themselves or others at least six times and wounded nearly two dozen more troops. Left: When Spc. Jason Perkins shot himself in the foot on July 6, it was among the latest in a string of "negligent discharges." He is recovering in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

happen due to a malfunction of the weapon itself; it is almost always due to negligent actions of the operator, or improper or inadequate training and supervision," said Lt. Col. Susan Meisner, U.S. forces spokeswoman in Afghanistan.

Although Army safety officials prefer the term "accidental discharge," most leaders use "negligent discharge," said Meisner, "to drive home the point."

She said that of the weapons mistakes in Afghanistan, about half have occurred while troops were clearing their weapons into clearing barrels. But during all the mistakes, she said, "proper clearing procedures were not followed."

Leaders attribute the high rate of negligent discharges in Afghanistan to lack of basic awareness, she said.

"Soldiers aren't accustomed to carrying loaded weapons, and high turnover in theater requires constant training and reminders," she said.

Despite the fatalities and injuries, so far no troops in Afghanistan have faced criminal charges, officials said.

Instead, most have been handed letters of reprimand or nonjudicial Article 15 punishments, which include reductions in rank and fines, but do not remain on permanent records.

Although she said that military investigators have not determined "criminally culpable intent for a negligent-homicide charge" in any of the fatalities, White's death remains under investigation.

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Army toughening basic training to prepare GIs for Mideast

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is putting into place sweeping changes in its basic training program to prepare recruits for immediate missions to Iraq and Afghanistan, The New York Times reported in its Wednesday editions.

In what officers describe as the biggest changes to basic training since Vietnam, soldiers whose specialties traditionally kept them far from the front — clerks, cooks, truck drivers and communications technicians — will undergo

"Soldiers of all specialties will face direct contact with an adversary."

Col. Bill Gallagher

Commander of the basic combat training brigade at Fort Benning, Ga.

far more stressful training.

The new training includes additional time dodging real bullets, more opportunities to fire weapons, including heavy machine guns, more time practicing urban combat and sleeping in the field,

the troops reported.

Before Iraq, freshly minted soldiers could expect months of additional training in their unit.

But with the Army stretched by long-term deployments, soldiers often are in combat zones within

30 days of being assigned to a unit, and the traditional distinction between hazardous front lines and secure rear areas has vanished, Army officials told the Times.

"There is no front; there is no rear," Col. Bill Gallagher, commander of the basic combat training brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., told the Times. "Soldiers of all specialties will face direct contact with an adversary. They all have to have a common set of combat skills."

Senior Army leadership must approve the plan and additional financing must be secured for the changes to become permanent.

IN THE WORLD

Victims mark Indonesia hotel blast

Survivor recounts meeting with suspects of 2002 Jakarta bombing

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Febby Firmansyah suffered horrific burns in the suicide bombing of Jakarta's J.W. Marriott Hotel a year ago. But he told two militants accused of planning the attack that he forgave them, and then confronted them — Muslim to Muslim — on the error of their ways.

"I asked them what they were thinking," Firmansyah said of his emotional meeting with the suspects at police headquarters earlier this year. "There is nothing in the al-Quran that tells people to kill other believers."

"They said they did it for Jihad ... to cleanse (Indonesia) of America. I said Jihad is not like that," the 27-year-old oil worker said.

Twelve people were killed and more than 100 wounded in the Aug. 5 attack on the U.S.-owned hotel, a tragedy whose year

anniversary was to be remembered Thursday. The strike was blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah.

Firmansyah's willingness to take on the attackers is unusual in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Authorities have arrested and convicted scores of militants since 2001, but government ministers and religious leaders are unwilling to outlaw Jemaah Islamiyah or acknowledge that Muslims are often the victims of Islamic terrorism.

The Marriott bombers attacked at lunchtime for maximum casualties.

The hotel's popular ground-floor restaurant was packed when the suicide bomber drew up to the lobby and detonated his vehicle, packed with explosives, gasoline and nails.

Another victim, Anie Rachmayani, was eating lunch when she heard a boom "like an earthquake" and saw a massive fireball rush toward her. The 30-year-old market-

ing manager was out of work for three months with burns and shrapnel injuries.

"Execution (for the bombers) is not fair," Rachmayani said over lunch in the restaurant that was attacked. "They should have to feel the same things as us. They should be injured."

The country's militant fringe has grown larger since the ouster in 1998 of ex-dictator Suharto, who brutally repressed hard-line Muslims he regarded as a challenge to his rule.

Police have arrested at least 14 militants over the Marriott bombings, and there have been no other similar attacks in the sprawling tropical archipelago.

Firmansyah said he wanted to meet with Tohir and Ismail to let them "know the effect of their actions."

"When they saw me, they cried and hugged me and got down on their knees and asked for forgiveness. They said they were sorry and that they will pray for me," said Firmansyah, who studied English in California. "I forgave them."



Bombing survivor Febby Firmansyah sits in his office, which overlooks the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia. Firmansyah is recovering from burns on 42 percent of his body from the 2003 hotel bombing.

Man slashes pupils, teachers at Beijing school; 1 dead

BY STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A school employee with a history of schizophrenia slashed 15 pupils and three teachers with a kitchen knife Wednesday at a Beijing kindergarten, killing one child and leaving terrified classmates covered in blood, police and news reports said.

Two children suffered serious injuries in the attack at the school run by the No. 1 Hospital of elite Peking University, police said. The wounded were taken down the street to the hospital, located in an affluent neighborhood less than a half mile from the compound in central Beijing where China's leaders work.

The attack in one of the country's most privileged neighborhoods is a blow to the communist leadership's effort to promote an image of order in the capital amid rising fears of crime and violence.

Police said they rushed to the school after getting reports at 9:36 a.m. that a man was attacking children with a vegetable knife.

They arrested Xu Heping, a 51-year-old man who was working part-time as a gatekeeper, police spokesman Liu Wei said.

Xu had been hospitalized for schizophrenia for five months in 1999 at another hospital in Beijing, Liu said. He said Xu began working at the school two years ago.

Police wouldn't say how many children were in the school at the time of the attack. Most Chinese students are off for summer vacation.

Citing a reporter at the hospital where the injured were taken, the official Xinhua News Agency said the children were "covered in blood and looked terrified."

Kindergarten children in China are generally ages 5 to 6, though younger children may have been at the school Wednesday because of summer. Police refused to release additional information. Hospital employees wouldn't comment.

The kindergarten and hospital are near the compound where President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders live and work — just west of the former imperial palace, where China's emperors lived for five centuries.

The kindergarten serves children of hospital employees, though many high-level officials also live in the area. It wasn't clear if the children of any top officials were at the school.



XINHUA/AP

A child injured in a Wednesday knife attack at a Beijing kindergarten is transferred to another section of the hospital.

Japan's best-known losing racehorse to retire in March

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's favorite loser has had enough.

The racing horse "Glorious Spring" has won hearts across Japan for racing doggedly in more than 100 contests — and losing every one of them.

Now her losing days are numbered — not because she's expected to ever win a competition, but because her owners have announced the horse, "Haru-urara" in Japanese, is retiring next March.

"I'll be sad to see Haru-urara retiring, but she has worked so hard already," Masashi Yoshida, a spokesman for the Kochi Racecourse, her home turf, said Wednesday.

Haru-urara's owner made the decision to put her out to pasture after the animal lost her 113rd consecutive race on Tuesday, Yoshida said.

A consistent loser, Haru-urara is an unusual heroine. But her struggles have touched the Japanese fondness for the hardworking underdog.

Born on Hokkaido in 1996, Haru-urara first raced at the Kochi Racecourse in November 1998. She lost, establishing a trend she's kept with remarkable consistency.

She has finished second only four times. She has earned a paltry 1 million yen (\$9,300) in prize money so far in her career.

Haru-urara is scheduled to run her last race on March 21.



AP file photo

Haru-urara, Japan's most popular racehorse that earned the fame by her losing record, will end her career after a final race in March, horse race organizers said Wednesday. The decision was announced Tuesday after Haru-urara lost her 113rd consecutive race.

Zoo halts boxing

BANGKOK, Thailand — A Thai zoo has been forced to halt orangutan boxing matches as police investigate allegations that the animals were illegally smuggled from Indonesia, a spokeswoman and police said Wednesday.

Police have been investigating the Safari World animal park near Bangkok since November after receiving complaints that it was keeping protected species without a permit.

Orangutans are endangered according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Israel criticized

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The Palestinian prime minister, newly empowered after a public dispute with Yasser Arafat, chastised Israel on Wednesday for expanding West Bank settlements and for blocking his plan to put armed policemen on the streets to bolster his public standing.

Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said he appealed to U.S. Consul David Pearce for "a firm and clear position" from Washington against Israeli settlement activity and for allowing armed police to patrol Palestinian towns and cities.

Space station

MOSCOW — Russia will charge the United States to deliver astronauts and cargo to the international space station starting next year, the head of the Federal Space Agency said Wednesday.

Although Russia and the United States agreed to split the costs of sending men and material to the space station, only Russian spacecraft have been used since last year's space shuttle disaster.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Intelligence agencies dissect latest data

BY TED BRIDIS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON Federal investigators are poring over the trove of documents and photographs that led to this week's urgent terrorism warnings, but intelligence agencies have been unable to reach a consensus on whether the information reflects a defunct or ongoing plot.

The information, recovered in Pakistan, led the Bush administration to issue its most targeted warning, saying a total of five financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, N.J., were potential targets.

The lack of specifics on the timing — some of the information seized about the surveillance of five buildings was as much as four years old — has led critics to question whether the administration overreacted. However, on Wednesday, Bush administration officials said a new stream of intelligence also had surfaced late last week indicating al-Qaida still wants to strike financial institutions.

"There's another new stream of intelligence that came to our attention on Friday as well, and I can't go further into it because I could compromise some ongoing operations," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

A senior Justice Department official said the information was based on human intelligence from someone other than two recently captured terror suspects in Pakistan who provided information that led to the warning issued Sunday. The intelligence did not specify when such an attack might be planned, the official said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

A senior law enforcement official who also spoke on condition of anonymity said the other intelligence was separate from computer surveillance information recovered during the arrest of one of the suspects in Pakistan but declined to characterize it otherwise, saying it was highly classified.

A senior counterterrorism official said the extensive surveillance reports that came to U.S. authorities last week were put together with "very recent and current activity" from al-Qaida, indicating the group's interest in attacking this year, before the terror alerts were issued. That information was gleaned from debriefings, the official said, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some of the information seized about the surveillance of five financial buildings was as much as four years old. But the Bush administration maintains it was essential to alert the public as soon as it was found because al-Qaida planning sometimes precedes actual attacks by as much as five years.

"This is an enemy that takes its time and is a prodigious planner, that is very patient," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Wednesday.

Counterterrorism experts believe planning for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks began in 1996. They also believe a terror suspect photographed American government buildings in Nairobi, Kenya, and drew sketches of potential targets for Osama bin Laden in 1993 — long before al-Qaida detonated a truck bomb in August 1998 near the U.S. Embassy there, killing 257.



New York City Emergency Services officers patrol outside the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street on Wednesday. AP

Pakistan: Attack on S. Africa plotted

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Two South Africans captured along with a senior al-Qaida terrorist were plotting attacks on tourist sites in their home country, Pakistani officials said Wednesday, a surprising target for Islamic terrorism given the African nation's vocal stand against the war in Iraq and Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

South African officials cast doubt on reports of a terror plot, though this past spring a top South African police official indicated that authorities failed plans to attack the country during its April 14 elections.

The two men are believed to have arrived in Pakistan on a flight from the United Arab Emirates just days before their July 25 arrest, which followed a 12-hour gunbattle in the eastern city of Gujarat. They greeted police with curses and promised an unending battle against President Bush and anyone who supports him, according to a senior police official.

Police had no details on the plans or the timing of an attack.

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Witness: England was disciplined frequently

BY ESTES THOMPSON
The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Pfc. Lynndie England was often sloppy at her paperwork job at Abu Ghraib prison because of illicit, late-night visits to the part of the facility where detainees were abused, her supervisor testified Wednesday.

The testimony by Spc. Matthew Bolinger at a pretrial hearing continued the government's theme of portraying England as one of a handful of out-of-control Army reservists who took it upon themselves to photograph detainees in humiliating poses at the prison near Baghdad.

Bolinger said England was repeatedly disciplined for sneaking into the prison's fortified "hard site" to visit her boyfriend, Spc. Charles A. Graner Jr., who is also charged in the case and is the father of the child England is carrying.

"Her performance was not so good," Bolinger said. "She was sneaking out in the middle of the night, going to the hard site."

Bolinger said England also was disciplined after being caught in bed several times with Graner beginning in July 2003. He said authorities tried several different punishments to keep her away from Graner and his part of the prison, including restricting her



Pfc. Lynndie England

to her quarters and requiring that she be escorted any time she left the unit's headquarters building.

Bolinger, who supervised England in her job processing prisoners on paperwork, testified by phone from Fort Lee, Va., where the 372nd Military Police Company, based in Cresaptown, Md., is stationed since returning from Iraq.

The hearing, expected to last through the week, will determine whether a court-martial goes forward against England on 13 counts of abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos. The maximum possible sentence is 38 years in prison.

Missouri voters approve gay marriage ban

By KELLY WIESE
The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri voters solidly endorsed a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, a decision that was closely watched by national groups on both sides of the battle.

With nearly all precincts reporting, the amendment had garnered 71 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results for Tuesday's vote.

It was the first such vote since the historic ruling in Massachusetts last year that legalized same-sex weddings there.

Although the ban was widely expected to pass in conservative Missouri, experts said the campaign served as a key barometer for which strategies work as at least nine other states, and perhaps as many as 12, vote on similar amendments this year.

Missouri and 37 other states already have laws defining marriage as between only a man and a woman. But amendment supporters fear a court could toss aside the state law, and they believe the state would be on firmer legal ground if an outright ban is part of the Constitution.

"I'm very gratified and encouraged and thankful that the people of this state understand our current policy's a wise public policy and they want to see it protected from a legal challenge," said Vicky Hartzler, a spokeswoman for the Coalition to Protect Marriage in Missouri.

Opponents said the amendment was unnecessary and discriminatory, but knew they faced an uphill battle in Missouri.

"We're already reaching out to these other states, sharing with them what we learned, what worked, what didn't work, and we'll move on," said Doug Gray, campaign manager for the Con-



Robyn Luster, left, and Barb Ide attend a pro-Amendment 2 campaign party Tuesday in St. Louis. Missouri voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment Tuesday to ban gay marriage.

tention Defense League. "Ultimately we're right and they're simply wrong."

Supporters and opponents of the amendment have used grassroots campaigns, knocking on

doors and making phone calls to tell people about the issue. The group fighting the amendment, the Constitution Defense League, raised more than \$360,000, largely from national gay-rights groups, and ran a television ad in the final days before the vote.

The group favoring the amendment, the Coalition to Protect Marriage in Missouri, spread the word through churches and community events, raising just a few thousand dollars but saying public sentiment in Missouri was on their side.

Louisiana residents are to vote on a marriage amendment Sept. 18. Then Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah are to vote on the issue Nov. 2.

Initiatives are pending in Michigan, North Dakota and Ohio.

Four states — Alaska, Hawaii, Nebraska and Nevada — already have similar amendments in their constitutions.

Bush touts record on jobs in Iowa

By PETE YOST
The Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa — President Bush and rival John Kerry campaigned Wednesday in the same crucially important Iowa town, with the president predicting he will win in November because his administration has improved the economy and bolstered national security.

"The other folks talk a good game. We deliver," the president told thousands of cheering supporters on the banks of the Mississippi River in a state he narrowly lost four years ago.

"This time we're going to carry it," Bush said.

Bush and Kerry are in a tight race in Iowa and both candidates are going after voters in Davenport, an area that some political experts say provided Democrat Al Gore the vote he needed to defeat Bush in the state in 2000.

Bush's campaign rally was several blocks away from where Kerry was to hear stories of manufacturing job losses in the state, which have totaled more than 26,000 since Bush took office.



President Bush takes a bite from an ear of corn being sold Wednesday at a farmers market in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Bush cited the state's relatively low jobless rate, 4.3 percent in June, which has consistently been below the national average, which was 5.6 percent in June. He said that since his presidency began, he has opened up markets overseas for Iowa farmers and has lowered their taxes.

"I have made the success of Iowa farmers and ranchers a priority, and America is better off for it," the president said.

Kerry takes campaign to GOP country

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa — The stops on John Kerry's cross-country campaign trip are hardly Democratic bastions. So much so, that on Wednesday he and President Bush campaigned just a few blocks from each other in this Iowa city.

"It occurred to me that he could come here for a great discussion about America's future if he were really willing to just turn a corner," Kerry said at an economic summit in Davenport.

He was poking fun at Bush's campaign slogan, "We've turned the corner, and we're not turning back."

Fresh off his Boston nominating convention with a unified party, Kerry has been taking his Democratic campaign to Republican strongholds from Newburgh, N.Y., to Harrisburg, Pa., to Grand Rapids, Mich.

Kerry is trying to win independent and GOP voters by stressing values, fiscal discipline, middle-class tax cuts and even his love of hunting and fishing. As he campaigns in conservative-leaning areas, Kerry often asks the crowds to forget he's running as a Democrat.

Kerry is attracting massive crowds in



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, of Massachusetts, greets supporters in Davenport, Iowa, late Tuesday evening.

places where Democrats don't often campaign. The tens of thousands who have seen him this week have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Kerry has spent the last several months jetting into big cities, which often tend to vote Democratic. Kerry's advisers say there will be more of that in the fall, but the bus trip gives him a chance to stop in the medium-size markets that were decided by a slim margin in 2000.

U.S. agency rapped for expensive airline ticket upgrades

By LARRY MARGASAK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government agency that distributes foreign aid cost taxpayers half a million dollars the past two years by repeatedly upgrading senior officials' plane tickets from coach to business class, an investigation found.

Among those at the U.S. Agency for International Development who took advantage of the up-

grades were Administrator Andrew Natsios and the agency's internal watchdog, Inspector General Everett Mosley, according to two internal reports obtained by The Associated Press.

"It can be concluded that employees who took advantage of the [upgrade] allowed this private gain to take precedence over the ethical principles of properly following government travel rules and regulations," investiga-

tors reported.

The investigators were from Mosley's office of the inspector general.

USAID's travel practice, more liberal than that followed by other government agencies, was ended by Natsios as a result of the investigation.

Mosley is the official assigned to investigate fraud, waste and abuse in the agency. The probe provided a rare instance when

Mosley's subordinates investigated their boss and referred him to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution.

Mosley's investigators also concluded Natsios may have run afoul of standards of conduct by failing to stop the practice "after he and members of his executive staff had been put on notice" that it was inappropriate.

Prosecutors declined criminal prosecution, in part because Mos-

ley's conduct was being referred to the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency, which investigates allegations of wrongdoing against inspectors general.

Both officials defended their conduct, saying they simply followed USAID's two-decades-old rules that allowed senior political appointees to upgrade to business class for a trip that lasts more than seven hours. The rest of the government permits upgrades when trips exceed 14 hours.

Tigger costume used as evidence in groping trial

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The antics in the trial of a Walt Disney World worker accused of groping a 13-year-old girl's breast while posing for photos dressed as Tigger would be downright goofy if the charges weren't so serious.

Jurors will get the chance to try on a Tigger costume in the jury room. Walt Disney World officials suggested Tigger's costume be altered before being introduced as evidence.

The defense attorney moonlighted as Goofy and Tigger at the theme park resort.

"This whole trial has a bunch of things unique about it," Matt Benefield, court administrator for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court in Orlando, said Tuesday on the second day of trial, which is expected to last through Wednesday.

Michael Chartrand, 36, is accused of misdemeanor battery and lewd and lascivious molestation, a felony. If convicted he faces a maximum of 15 years in prison. He rejected a plea offer on Monday that would have kept him out of prison.



Chartrand

He was suspended without pay from his job and his fiancée left him after he was arrested in April.

During deliberations, jurors will get the chance to try on the Tigger costume. Defense attorney Jeffrey Kaufman Jr. said he wanted the jurors to feel what it's like inside the hot, stuffy costume so they know how difficult it is to wear.

But the use of the Tigger costume during the trial worried Disney officials enough that a company attorney suggested to the defense attorney that the costume be dyed black and white and its ears be removed, Kaufman said last week.

The Tigger costume, covered in a black garment bag and stuffed in a cardboard box, was entered into evidence as state's exhibit No. 7 on Tuesday. Later, Kaufman pulled the costume's head, bodysuit, tail and paws out of the box to show the detective who investigated the case. Kaufman stuck his arm in the orange and black-striped head and held it up to show how vision is limited in the costume before placing it back in the box.

Prosecutor William Jay told jurors during opening statements that such magic was stolen from the victim when she posed with Tigger and her mother for photos last February.

"He abused his job as a convicted character to steal a little girl's innocence," Jay said.



Jennifer Thomas, left, and Rick Gentile rides their bikes Tuesday along N.C. Highway 12 in Buxton, N.C., while cars slowly drive along the flooded Outer Banks road.

Alex heads out to sea

Hurricane brings winds and flooding to Outer Banks

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

BUXTON, N.C. — Hurricane Alex brought plenty of wind, rain and flooding to the Outer Banks. Now the communities of North Carolina's barrier islands must clean up after a stronger-than-expected storm.

The storm brushed the coast Tuesday with winds reaching 100 mph, cutting power to thousands and flooding Hatteras Island's only link to the mainland. Alex brought flooding from the Pamlico Sound across the thin outer islands, sending trash bins and other debris floating along flooded N.C. Highway 12.

"It blew a whole lot harder than what people expected," said Ollie Jarvis, who owns Dillon's Corner, a souvenir and tackle shop. "Last week we weren't even thinking about it. It came up on us quick."

But the storm's path spared the area a direct hit, a blessing for some communities still recovering from last September's 100-mph Hurricane Isabel, which damaged 53,000 homes.

Alex's impact was much more limited, though the storm strengthened in the last hours before hitting the coast Tuesday morning and then turning back out to sea.

The storm grew to hurricane strength, 74 mph, early in the day and by midday the sustained wind around its eye had revved up to nearly 100 mph, with higher gusts, the National Hurricane Center said.

However, the eye just barely passed by Cape Hatteras, leaving the east side of the hurricane — where the strongest wind and heaviest rain are located — out at sea.

By Wednesday morning, Alex

was centered about 280 miles east-northeast of Cape Hatteras with a top sustained wind speed of about 90 mph, according to the hurricane center. It was moving at nearly 18 mph toward the east-northeast, on a track likely to keep it south of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland on its way into the north Atlantic.

"This is different from Isabel last year, which came into the coast perpendicularly and went inland and into Virginia," said Richard Knabb, a hurricane center meteorologist. "This is comparatively a grazing blow, but still a pretty significant one for Cape Hatteras and areas nearby there."

No injuries had been reported. The National Guard was called in to help clean along some parts of the coast and public ferry service between Ocracoke and Hatteras was canceled. Damage assessment teams began work Wednesday on Hatteras Island.

Prehistoric bird likely was capable of flight

The Associated Press

A close look at the brain of Archaeopteryx, the earliest known bird, has produced new evidence that the crow-sized creature could fly.

Many experts already believed that Archaeopteryx, which lived some 150 million years ago, could fly rather than just glide or run on the ground. But Angela Milner, co-author of the new study, said debate on the question has lingered to some extent.

Milner, deputy head of the paleontology department at the Natural History Museum in London, and co-authors present their study in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*. They used CT scanning of a specimen in London to reconstruct the braincase, and from that deduced details of the brain.

"The shape of the brain lobes and the pattern of the brain lobes compares very closely to what we see in modern flying birds," Milner said in a telephone interview. So the brain was "well-equipped for flying."

In particular, she said, brain lobes responsible for



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN/AP

Angela Milner, a paleontologist from London's Natural History Museum, and Dr. Timothy Rowe of the University of Texas are arguing in the journal *Nature* that the pre-historic bird Archaeopteryx had a brain that was "well-equipped for flying."

vision, balance and flight coordination and control, at least in modern flying birds, were enlarged in Archaeopteryx.

The creature's skeleton shows it couldn't fly as long as modern birds can or maneuver as well, she said, but it could supply power for flying.

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Teacher who had affair with student freed

Mary Kay Letourneau gave birth to one of their children behind bars



BY REBECCA COOK
The Associated Press

GIG HARBOR, Wash. — Mary Kay Letourneau, the grade school teacher convicted for having sex with a sixth-grade pupil, was released from prison early Wednesday, and her now 21-year-old former lover plans to challenge a court order that bars her from contacting him, a friend said.

"He's relieved that she's out of prison and currently he can't wait to see her," Noel Soriano told NBC's "Today" show.

Letourneau, who served 7½ years in prison, slipped unnoticed past the hordes of reporters and gawkers outside the Washington Corrections Center for Women before dawn.

As a condition of her release, Letourneau, 42, can't contact former pupil Villi Fualau, the father of two of her children.

Soriano told NBC that Fualau plans to ask a judge to dissolve that no-contact order later Wednesday.

Letourneau, who sang in the choir and recorded books-on-tape for the blind while in prison, wants to try to build a normal life, said Seattle attorney Anne Bremner, who struck up a friendship with Letourneau in 2002 and spoke to her recently by phone. "She wants to be a mother, she wants to be a responsible member of society,"

As a sex offender, Letourneau will have to register with the state and receive court-ordered treatment. Authorities will notify her new neighbors — although the TV trucks probably will tip them off first. More than seven years in prison has done little to dim Letourneau's notoriety.

A small crowd gathered outside the prison gates on Tuesday night — a few families and some rowdy teenage boys flaunting signs that say "I'm 18, Baby" and "Take Me Home" for the TV cameras.

Letourneau was a 34-year-old elementary school teacher in suburban Seattle and a married mother of four in 1996 when her friendship with the then-12-year-old Fualau mutated into flirtation and then sex.

The illicit relationship was revealed when Letourneau's husband, Steve, found love letters from the boy. Steve Letourneau later moved to Alaska with the couple's children and was granted a divorce.

When Letourneau was arrested in 1997, she was already pregnant with Fualau's daughter. A judge sentenced her to six months in jail for second-degree child rape, and ordered her to stay away from Fualau.

But the temptation proved too much for her to resist. A month after Letourneau

was released, she was caught having sex with Fualau in her car, a violation of her parole. She was sent to prison for seven and a half years, and gave birth to Fualau's second daughter behind bars.

"This case is not about a flawed system. This is about an opportunity that you foolishly squandered," King County Superior Court Judge Linda Lau told Letourneau at her sentencing, referring to the lenient terms she had earlier imposed on her.

Letourneau's two daughters with Fualau are now 5 and 7. They visited her in prison about twice a month. Her four older children visited a few times a year.

Letourneau may now want to tell her own story. A state appeals court ruled in 2000 that she may sell and profit from her story.

She has also expressed interest in working for a group that advocates for the rights of mothers in prison.

As for trying to reconnect with Fualau, Letourneau was mum.

"I'm not allowing myself to think about being with him," Letourneau told Seattle's KOMO-TV earlier this week. "We had a beautiful relationship, and I value it for what it was."

Attempts by The Associated Press to reach Letourneau or her lawyers were unsuccessful.

Mary Kay Letourneau holds her baby — one of two fathered by Villi Fualau, one of her former sixth-grade students — in this 1997 photo. She was freed from prison Wednesday after more than seven years.

Sexual predators who target kids become the prey of police

BY M. DANIEL GIBBARD
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — A U.S. soldier who traveled from Italy to Naperville, Ill., allegedly to have sex with a 14-year-old girl he met on the Internet, found police waiting for him instead.

In Seattle, a 69-year-old man picked up in Cambodia for having sex with two boys became the first American convicted under a new law that allows U.S. citizens to be tried for child sex crimes committed abroad.

The three men were among more than 3,200 people nabbed in the first year of Operation Predator, a federal program launched last July by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to turn child sex predators into prey.

Educators, doctors, lawyers and at least one police officer and firefighter are among those who have been stung in Chicago and

the suburbs.

"A pretty good cross section of society, unfortunately," said Customs agent Ron Wolflick, the group supervisor for cybercrime investigations in Chicago.

"A few years ago you'd get recusers, people who were cut off from society, but we're seeing a change. Now we're getting doctors, which is scary. I've seen a definite increase in (arrests of) professionals with access to children."

Most visibly, Operation Predator's investigators are behind a series of Internet child pornography arrests. Law-enforcement experts point to the Internet as the great facilitator for such crimes.

"On the Internet, you can do what you want for the most part," Wolflick said. "It's afforded an opportunity for (pedophiles) to broaden their horizons."

"They see more and more of the images, and it's like a drug, they get hooked on it."

Operation Predator is run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which was formed by a merger of the Immigration and Naturalization and Customs Services. The agency is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

The program has received praise for bringing together U.S. agencies such as the Postal Inspection Service, Interpol and the Justice Department, with several non-governmental bodies, particularly the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and state and local law enforcement.

Children and the INS already had duties in the fight against child sex predators.

Federal agents work closely with local police to make arrests and with local, state and federal prosecutors to bring charges, depending on the jurisdiction.

Investigators get many leads from the public, particularly the National Center for Missing & Ex-

ploited Children's Web site at www.cybertipline.com.

The campaign against child sex tourism got a boost from the Protect Act of 2003, which made it a federal crime for U.S. residents to engage in sexual or pornographic activities anywhere in the world with a child younger than 18.

The first Protect Act case wrapped up last month, when Michael Lewis Clark of Washing-

ton state was sentenced to 8 years in federal prison for having sex with a Cambodian boy, 10 and 13.

Army Sgt. Maj. Michael V. Clements, 42, who was based in Vincenza, Italy, was arrested in March and is awaiting trial. He was picked up at a restaurant in Naperville where, prosecutors say, he intended to have sex with a 14-year-old girl he met in a chat room. The correspondent was actually an undercover officer.

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<p>Japan to the USA</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">9.9¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">48 States</p>	<p>Korea</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">7.9¢</p>	<p>Remote</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">5.9¢</p>
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FACES 'N' PLACES

Schwarzenegger sale

Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver, have sold three residential properties, including a home that went to one of Shriver's cousins, a real estate agent said.

"I'll confirm that there was a sale," Steve Lewis of Hilton & Hyland, Beverly Hills, said Monday. Lewis represented the buyer of two of the parcels. The sale was reported Sunday in the *Los Angeles Times*.

The properties are part of a four-parcel compound in Pacific Palisades that was listed last year at \$18 million for the entire 5.3 acres. The two haven't lived in the compound since 2002, when they bought a home in Brentwood worth \$11.9 million.

Rocker goes postal, goes to jail

Cris Kirkwood, former bass player for the Meat Puppets rock band, has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for attacking a security guard with a baton outside an Arizona post office.

Kirkwood, 43, pleaded guilty May 10 to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

He was shot during the Dec. 26 incident at the post office in downtown Phoenix and authorities said he was on probation at the time for a 2000 drug offense.

According to the criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court, Kirkwood was arguing with a woman about a parking space outside the post office when she approached security guard Thomas Goodrum.

Kirkwood yelled profanities at Goodrum, then shoved the security guard.

In the ensuing scuffle, Kirkwood managed to get Goodrum's collapsible baton away from him and hit him on the head, knocking off the guard's eyeglasses. Goodrum then pulled his handgun and fired a shot into Kirkwood's back, the complaint states.

Trump touts tennis in ads

He's hired! Donald Trump is helping the U.S. Tennis Association promote participation in the sport.

Trump will appear in print ads in the official U.S. Open program and in national publications in the fall. He also taped a promo that will be shown on video screens during the Grand Slam tournament starting Aug. 30.

A regular at the U.S. Open for many years, Trump did the promos as a favor to a friend who's a former USTA board member.

The spots tout the Web site TennisWelcomeCenter.com, which promotes more than 4,000 facilities across the country where tennis lessons are available. People can find their nearest Tennis Welcome Center by entering their zip code on the Web site.

It's all part of a campaign called "Tennis. Come Out Swinging," launched in March by the USTA and the Tennis Industry Association, which includes manufacturers and retailers.

VMA's to be packed with stars

MTV continues to add celebrities to the 2004 Video Music Awards. The newest additions read like a veritable list of who's funny, who's in the tabloids and who can flip around two and a half times in midair on a skateboard.

Dave Chappelle, Paris Hilton, Tony Hawk, Lenny Kravitz, Ludacris, Lil' Cool J, Jon Stewart, Ashlee Simpson and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs will appear, MTV said Monday.

MTV also announced that hip-hop artists Lil' Jon, Petey Pablo, the Ying Yang Twins and Terror Squad featuring Fat Joe will perform. Already slated to perform are Usher, Kanye West, Yellowcard, Jet, Hoobastank and Jessica Simpson.

The 21st annual awards show will air live Aug. 29 from the American Airlines Arena in Miami.

Jay-Z's jarring video for "99 Problems," which depicts his own murder by a metaphor for his retirement from rapping, leads with six nominations. Beyonce, No Doubt and OutKast received five nominations each.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



P. Diddy at forefront of effort by hip-hop stars to urge fans to get out to polls in November

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Sean "P. Diddy" Combs unveiled his get-out-the-vote initiative, it had all the elements of hot album release party.

There was a DJ spinning cool songs. A "street team" of young kids wearing T-shirts promoting the cause. A few supermodels. Even an A-list celebrity face in Democratic strategist James Carville (well, A-list for political world, that is).

P. Diddy is just the latest rap figure this year to try and make voting cool to a hip-hop generation that Combs has dubbed "the forgotten ones."

Russell Simmons brought his Hip-Hop Summit Action Network to the Democratic National Convention in Boston last week. About 2,000 people turned out as stars such as Wyckd Jean, Loon, Lloyd Banks and Bone Crusher urged them to register to vote.

The muzzled mouth of OutKast's Andre 3000, who also was present at the Boston event, is adorning new public service ads by the nonpartisan group Declare Yourself, with the motto: "Only You Can Silence Yourself." And Jadakiss, who raps about drug dealing, violence and other thugery in his lyrics, is raising political issues in his new song "Why" and giving interviews about voting and getting the minimum wage raised.

"This is the collective conscious of hip-hop at work," said hip-hop mogul Simmons, who over the past three years has enlisted superstars like Jay-Z, Beyonce, Eminem, Nelly and Ludacris as his group registered thousands of young black and Latino fans to vote.

"It's a cultural snowball effect. We want people to feel like if you don't vote you're an idiot," he told The Associated Press.

The idea of rap stars as political motivators may seem opposite the image projected by many of today's rappers — a crowd that leans toward sex, violence, partying and the bling-bling lifestyle.

However, James Bernard, who organized the Hip-Hop Political Convention in Newark, N.J., earlier this year, points out rap's long history of political muckraking, from KRS-One and Public Enemy in the mid-1980s to the current group dead prez.

Although rap has been rapped plenty for its raw content, Bernard believes that "hip-hop music is getting more mature. ... I think it's just taken time for this conversation to bubble up."

Jadakiss and P. Diddy acknowledge as much.

Jadakiss says it was time for his music to reflect a larger view of the world. "As an artist, you're supposed to grow. I'm just trying to show maturity and growth as an artist."

Sending a strong message

P. Diddy, who says he hasn't voted since the 2000 election, says running the New York City marathon last year while raising funds for charity helped him realize he could do more with his celebrity.

"I think we're growing up, and No. 2, we're starting to recognize our power, and power is responsibility," he said.

"We have kids, we're thinking about other things. We want to do other things than making jewelry hot and clothes hot."

There have been past efforts to get out the hip-hop vote. During the 2000 election, Rap the Vote, an offshoot of the group Rock the Vote, used Mary J. Blige, P. Diddy, Queen Latifah and others to generate voter turnout among black and minority youth.

But Curtis Gans, director of the Committee for the Study for the American Electorate, says those efforts haven't really helped much.

"People don't vote because of hip-hop artists or rock stars, they vote because they think there's something important to decide," said Gans.

In the 2000 election, about 60 percent of those registered to vote actually did, according to the U.S. Census Bureau figures.

However, among 18- to 24-year-olds, only 36.1 percent did.

Some question whether P. Diddy — or any celebrity — can reverse youth voter apathy, particularly among minorities.

"Celebrities help, but it has to be combined with an organization on the ground who have people and resources who actually go out and register people and at election time reminds those people and helps those people to get out and vote," said David Bositis, senior political analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

The ongoing war, worries about the economy and terrorism are among the issues that may get more young people interested this year, both Bositis and Gans said.

But Kevin Powell, an author who has written extensively about hip-hop and has held town hall meetings in several cities about the state of black men in America, said many of the efforts to spark the hip-hop vote are "no celebrity-driven."

"Unfortunately, we're equating the rappers with being leaders, and they're not leaders, they're artists," said Powell, who complained there was little emphasis on issues and supporting new leaders by organizations such as Simmons' network.

"Of course it [celebrity] helps, but there has to be an alliance between the celebrities and the people who were doing the work."

YOUR MONEY

Saying air bag bags help is a safe assumption

Dear Tom and Ray:

Am I safer in a bigger, older car that doesn't have particularly well and has no new safety features (i.e. my '92 Volvo 900 sedan), or a newer compact car with side-curtain air bags that handles well and performs well in crash tests (i.e. a VW Jetta)? Does young but small trimp but old? — Ruby

RAY: So, you've got the hots for a new Jetta, huh, Ruby?

TOM: It's not an easy question to answer. There are a number of things that factor into a car's "safety." Size is just one of them.

RAY: There's also design. Some cars are designed to better protect their occupants with crumple zones, passenger roll cages and reinforced door beams. Some cars add electronics, such as dynamic stability control and anti-lock brakes. And then there are air bags: front, side, head and even knee bags.

TOM: And finally, there's active safety — how well a car handles in emergency situations, to help you avoid an accident in the first place. So, size is an important factor, but it's only one factor.

RAY: In general, I'd have to say that newer cars tend to have more safety advantages than older cars. But your older Volvo

might be an exception to this rule. Despite its lack of some of the modern electronics and additional air bags, it is a large car and was extremely well-designed to survive an accident. If you were comparing a '92 Chevy Lumina with a newer car, I'd give the nod to the newer car for safety. But the Volvos were pretty good, even back then.

TOM: So, it's a tough call, Ruby.

We certainly would like to see you with ABS, as many air bags as a manufacturer will give you and even dynamic stability control, if you can get it. But you really have to look up the crash-test ratings of the particular car you're considering, because the results can differ dramatically — even with similar-size cars with identical equipment. You can link to the ratings from our Web site www.cartalk.com.

RAY: In your case, in a choice between a new Jetta and a '92 Volvo, it's hard to make the call purely in terms of safety, Ruby. So, I think you have to put aside the safety issue and make your decision based on other criteria. Like how much better you're going to look in that new Jetta, for instance. Good luck.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Click in this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com. Write Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Click and Click

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week Low	52-week High	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-week Chg	% Chg
10,753.15	8,977.11	Dow Jones Industrial	10,812.24	-58.2	-0.5	+11.9	+0.1
3,212.45	2,536.38	Dow Jones Transportation	3,128.54	-13.61	-0.4	+31.7	+0.7
265.07	225.46	Dow Jones Utilities	265.07	+0.18	+0.1	+11.3	+2.5
6,798.12	5,430.77	NYSE Composite	6,407.21	-23.69	-0.3	+5.8	+0.1
938.73	785.19	AMEX	1,231.95	+2.98	+0.2	+30.7	+2.5
1,153.83	1,648.88	NASDAQ Composite	1,242.42	-22.67	-1.7	+19.1	+1.1
116,623	96,804	S&P 500	1,089.69	-9.33	-0.8	+11.0	+1.0
138.46	47.71	S&P MidCap	514.85	-6.31	-1.0	+4.4	+0.7
6,942	440.57	Russell 2000	541.63	-3.30	-0.6	+28.8	+5.2
11,371.14	9,258.56	DJ Wilshire 2000	10,667.48	-7.12	-0.1	+14.3	+0.1

NYSE			AMEX			NASDAQ		
Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)		
Name	Vol	Last	Name	Vol	Last	Name	Vol	Last
Alcoa	10,612	39.00	Johnson & Johnson	3,880	26.00	Microsoft	3,788	26.00
Qwest	2,841	31.17	SPDR	3,886	10.26	Verizon	3,084	26.00
IBM	1,795	134.00	Bank of America	1,795	26.00	United States Steel	1,795	26.00
Pfizer	1,691	32.45	Bank of America	1,795	26.00	United States Steel	1,795	26.00
Merck	1,562	30.87	Bank of America	1,795	26.00	United States Steel	1,795	26.00
Tylenol	1,448	31.41	+31	Johnson & Johnson	3,880	26.00	+31	Johnson & Johnson
Novartis	1,381	31.41	+31	Johnson & Johnson	3,880	26.00	+31	Johnson & Johnson
United States Steel	1,381	31.41	+31	Johnson & Johnson	3,880	26.00	+31	Johnson & Johnson
Verizon	1,245	30.84	+31	Johnson & Johnson	3,880	26.00	+31	Johnson & Johnson

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Div	PE	Last	YTD % Chg	Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD % Chg	
Atlantic Technology	0.00	15.00	21.15	+1.87	Fidelity Investor: Ultra	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Boeing	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Growth	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Lockheed Martin	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
General Dynamics	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Raytheon	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
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Raytheon	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Northrop Grumman	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Boeing	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Lockheed Martin	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
General Dynamics	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Raytheon	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Northrop Grumman	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Boeing	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
Lockheed Martin	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
General Dynamics	0.00	16.00	21.15	+2.15	Fidelity Investor: Divd	47.50	-1.21	-1.21	
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FRIDAY EVENING / AUGUST 6, 2004

MOVIES

• SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6 AFN-P	•ESPN News	Pacific Report	King of the Hill Shuttle points to the church group. (CC)	Malcolm in the Middle: Malcolm's family. (CC)	The Apprentice: Circus, Cretal candidates explore the world of high stakes gambling. (CC)	Alma: The former Sydney and Vaughn pursue Mazarin Bonaldi's escape of the Rambaldi puzzle. (CC)			Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)		Late Show (CC)
7 AFN-AT	5:30 Guiding Light (CC)	General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today! L Cool J. (CC)				House of Mouse (CC)	Rocko's Modern Life (CC)	The Fairly Odd- Parents (CC)	As Told by Ginger (Part 3 of 3)
8 NEWS	Primetime Thursday (CC)		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Good Morning America (CC)				Headline News	ABC World News This Morning (CC)	The Early Show (CC)	
9 SPORTS	•SportCenter		•Baseball Tonight		•MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.						•NFL Live	•Baseball Tonight
10 SPECT	The Dead Zone "The Combination" Johnny goes public with his vision. (CC)		Boston Public Chapter Forty-Five New teachers on the faculty; students plan a walkout. (CC)		The Crocodile Hunter The isolated in- habitants of the world's largest salt- land are visited. (CC)	Toyota World of Wonders The world's largest salt-land is visited. (CC)	Animal Adven- tures Baby gear what's a rescue. (CC)	Butty the Vampire Slayer "Villains" The friends cope with an unlikely death. (CC)			The X-Files "Three of a Kind" The Lone Gunner hits. Study into joining them in Las Vegas. (CC)	
14 TMC	(S45) *** "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" (1989, Fantasy) John Neville, Eric Idle, Sarah Polley. The fictional baron regains an audience with his exploits. PG (CC)				*** "The Daytrippers" (1996, Comedy) Hope Davis, Pat McKenzie, Arnie Messia. A wife and her relatives search for her philandering mate. R Street View (CC)	*** "The Daytrippers" (1996, Comedy) Hope Davis, Pat McKenzie, Arnie Messia. A wife and her relatives search for her philandering mate. R Street View (CC)	*** "The Daytrippers" (1996, Comedy) Hope Davis, Pat McKenzie, Arnie Messia. A wife and her relatives search for her philandering mate. R Street View (CC)	*** "The Daytrippers" (1996, Comedy) Hope Davis, Pat McKenzie, Arnie Messia. A wife and her relatives search for her philandering mate. R Street View (CC)				
24 PBS	Clifford the Big Red Dog (CC)	Dragon Tales Emily is teased during a game.	The Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Washington Week (N) (CC)	Wall Street Week With Fortune (N) (CC)			Tucker Carlson: Unfiltered (N) (CC)	Up to the Floor Various jobs on the floor.	Charlie Rose Turn Turner (N) (CC)	
25 SHOW	(S15) *** "Vampires Anonymous" (2003, Comedy) Paul Gopovich, Michael Madsen, Nicole Fontaine. Premiere. A vampire enters in a 12-step program. R (CC)		American Justice "Vanished" A woman vanishes after she is spotted talking to a murdered. (CC)		Hazle's Secret Killing Squads (CC)							
27 A&E	City Confidential "Free Haw" star David "Stringbeard" Ateman and his wife are murdered. (CC)		To Be Announced		Africa's Great Rescue (CC)							
28 DISC	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Africa's Great Rescue (CC)							
29 TFC	(S-50) Bids Si Mister, Bids Si Mails		Insider		In Private Beadies enjoy passion.							
30 CNN+	Larry King Live (CC)		CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia	CNN World News	World Sport			
31 GOLF	•European PGA Golf KLM Open - First Round From the Netherlands.											
32 TLC	Clean Sweep A man with wife and six complexes and a huge show collection help. (CC)		In a Fix "Dreaming in Dimensions" Chronic home improvement.		While You Were Out "Portland: French Country D'Art" Displaying a collection. (CC)							
34 TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laboratory	Courage the Cow- ardly Dog	Teen Titans	Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon shorts.	2 Stupid Dogs	I Am Weasel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Squad	
35 ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter Diaries "Wild About Harry" The world's most ven- erous snake bites Harry. (CC)		The Planet's Fun- niest Animals (CC)		Weird Nature Animal motion; feeding habits. (CC)							
36 COM	Late Night Like Harry: Christopher Mullen, Ernie Smart. (CC)		Jeff Foxworthy: Totally Committed The comic makes observations on life. (CC)		The Graham Norton Effect (CC)							
40 NGA-	Nick's Week: Visiting the Arctic to check global warming's impact on polar bears.		World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)		Star Trek: The Next Generation "Night Terrors" (CC)							
42 SPIKE	Real TV	Real TV	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)		Star Trek: The Next Generation "Night Terrors" (CC)							
43 FOX	Fame (CC)		Blind Date Horror start-up comic. (N) (CC)		Blind Date Horror start-up comic. (N) (CC)							
44 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live "Harry Belafonte" (CC)		Blind Date Horror start-up comic. (N) (CC)		Blind Date Horror start-up comic. (N) (CC)							
46 COURT	Hollywood Heat		Cops From Miami: disturbance call; shooting. (CC)		Cops From Miami: disturbance call; shooting. (CC)							
48 STR-UD	The Simpsons (CC)	Cheers (CC)	Star News Focus Asia	Just Shoot Me (CC)	•Wrestling							
49 LIFE	The Golden Girls "Laundry and Old Lies" (CC)		•• "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Freya Duraway, Nicolette Shirley. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister agenda. (CC)		•• "Home Fires" (1989, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Luke Wilson, Catherine O'Hara. A pregnant last-food client encounters a psychotic family. (CC)							
51 ABC/AF	Full House Danny bargains a family vacation. (CC)		Full House D.J. and Junior have Shabbat dinner. (CC)		•• "Return to Cabin by the Lake" (2001, Suspense) Judy Nelson, Brian Ghera, Dahlia Salani. A murderous screen- writer returns for revenge. (CC)							
53 HIST	The Real Docu (CC)		Modern Marvels "Times Squares" New York's vibrant Times Square. (N) (CC)		•• "Return to Cabin by the Lake" (2001, Suspense) Judy Nelson, Brian Ghera, Dahlia Salani. A murderous screen- writer returns for revenge. (CC)							
57 STR-UD	(S45) *** "The 6th Man" (1997, Comedy) Marlon Wayans, Kedrick Hardin, David Paymer. A ghost helps his younger brother back in basketball. (CC)		Full House D.J. and Junior have Shabbat dinner. (CC)		•• "Return to Cabin by the Lake" (2001, Suspense) Judy Nelson, Brian Ghera, Dahlia Salani. A murderous screen- writer returns for revenge. (CC)							
58 ADV I	Total Adventure Skiing and climb- ing. (CC)		Northanger Part 2		•• "Return to Cabin by the Lake" (2001, Suspense) Judy Nelson, Brian Ghera, Dahlia Salani. A murderous screen- writer returns for revenge. (CC)							
59 MTV	The Life Time "A Many Thai Fighter" American boxers try Muay Thai boxing.		Direct Effect		•• "Return to Cabin by the Lake" (2001, Suspense) Judy Nelson, Brian Ghera, Dahlia Salani. A murderous screen- writer returns for revenge. (CC)							
60 NICK	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Rugrats Angelica males Santa cut. (E) (CC)	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp

JAPAN TV

Morning

730 Disney (12)

Afternoon

Meet Boy's Senior High School

Meet Boy's Senior High School

Meet Boy's Senior High School

Meet Boy's Senior High School

Meet Boy's Senior High School

Meet Boy's Senior High School

Meet Boy's Senior High School

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3:14 Soccer: Champions World Series (4)

JAPAN TV (B57)

Morning

6:00 Top News from Around the World

6:30 Top News from Around the World

7:00 Top News from Around the World

7:30 Top News from Around the World

8:00 Top News from Around the World

8:30 Top News from Around the World

9:00 Top News from Around the World

9:30 Top News from Around the World

10:00 Top News from Around the World

10:30 Top News from Around the World

11:00 Top News from Around the World

11:30 Top News from Around the World

12:00 Top News from Around the World

12:30 Top News from Around the World

1:00 Top News from Around the World

1:30 Top News from Around the World

11:00 BS News

11:30 Economic News

11:50 BS Prime Time: World Reports

12:00 KLB Highlights

12:30 PGA Golf Lesson (9)

13:00 World Amazing Sports

2:00 Asian News

2:30 BS News Hour

3:00 Asian News

3:30 BS News Hour

4:00 Asian News

4:30 BS News Hour

5:00 Top News from Around the World

JAPAN TV (BS11)

Morning

6:00 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

6:30 NHK News

7:00 NHK News

7:30 NHK News

8:00 NHK News

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9:00 NHK News

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Right attitude can protect

In response to the Aug. 3 letter "BDU rule is nonsense," I agree with the writer, Sgt. Christopher Karr: He does not need a back massage, MWR trip or ice cream cone. What he does so desperately need is some discipline and respect for authority.

Perhaps I just might appreciate the significance stresses that our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines currently deployed to Iraq and Kuwait shoulder daily. As a veteran, however, I know that when noncommissioned officers openly question lawful orders, the dignity and morale of the entire unit suffers.

Sgt. Karr also alludes to those valuable lessons learned in basic training. Perhaps he missed the class on obedience to orders while he was worrying about the heat and his bloused boots.

Bottom line: Yes, Sgt. Karr; that Kevlar is indeed intended to save your life regardless of how bulletproof you think you may be some day. Your family may thank you for it.

Jessica Perdw
Yongsan Garrison, South Korea

Sending women to war is wrong

What nation would send its women to war? Only in America. What nation would send its women to war in violation of its historic norms and standards of decency? Only in America. With the news of the tragic death of a female soldier from Nebraska, the Iraq war is brought closer to home for me.

Why are these female servicemembers dying as a result of hostile action? I believe it is because of a national policy to delibe-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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ately place women in harm's way. We don't have enough troops on the ground to meet all the tactical needs of the military and so we send in the women.

When Congress debated the idea of women in the military, the deal was that women would not be allowed in the killing fields. What happened since then? A severe manpower shortage happened and so we send in the women.

When women are encouraged to enlist in the regular Army and our Guard and Reserve forces they have no idea of what they are really getting into. They only hear of the benefits of college and other school-

ing and an additional paycheck. Their real mission, which is to engage the enemy in the violence of warfare in order to defeat that enemy, is never emphasized.

What nation would send its women into the violence of warfare? Only in America. America's women are intelligent, brave, loyal, hard-working, and patriotic, but a decent nation would not send its women into the violence of war.

Will Clayton
Benedict, Neb.

Numbers leave driver fuming

I have been watching the average price of regular gas in the States because Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials state they set their price of gas in South Korea based on a four-week average of the price of gas in the States (adjusted monthly). The past four-week average price of regular gas in the States is as follows (based on the U.S. Department of Energy Web site www.eia.doe.gov):

July 5 — \$1.895
July 12 — \$1.917
July 19 — \$1.928
July 26 — \$1.905

Based on these numbers, the four-week average of the price of regular gas in the States is \$1.91. If we assume we are paying \$1.96 per gallon for regular at the pump in South Korea? Maybe it is a different four weeks AAFES is averaging or maybe AAFES is using another formula or maybe it is just adding a nickel to the price for profit (even though it is a nonprofit organization). AAFES consumers in South Korea have a right to know the real story from AAFES.

Steven G. Burns
Osan Air Base, South Korea

Only pressure will fix Sudan situation

While most of the world dithers and debates, the slaughter continues in the western Sudanese province of Darfur.

Late last month African Union monitors reported that on July 3 the Darfurian town of Suleia was attacked by government-sponsored militias that shackled villagers and burned them alive.

On the same day of the atrocities in Suleia, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan accepted a promise from the Sudanese government to rein in the killer Janjaweed militias and facilitate access of humanitarian aid to the 1 million people forced into refugee camps and others displaced in Darfur.

Annan also convened a summit in Ghana on July 30 to seek "African solutions" to the various humanitarian crises in the continent, including the one in Sudan. Annan also made an urgent appeal to donor countries to increase their aid for humanitarian efforts in Darfur.

Sudan has issued defiant statements against international intervention. Yet that is precisely what is needed—a

series of steps by the world community to compel Sudan to abide by the Annan agreement, disarm the Janjaweed and prosecute its leaders.

There is not great reason to be optimistic that that will happen.

In recent weeks, the United States has proposed new U.N. resolutions to place sanctions and arms embargoes against Sudan. Russia and China, among other Security Council members, have balked at the threat of military or economic sanctions. Russia reportedly wants to protect its profitable sale of warplanes to Sudan, while China fears risking its access to Sudanese oil.

The latest resolution, presented July 30, calls for the League to demand that Sudan would face unspecified measures if it does not follow the Annan plan within 30 days. The European Union backs the U.S. initiative. But Russia and China, joined by Pakistan, want to give Sudan more time.

More time for what? The 18-month conflict has killed 30,000 people, forced 1 million people into refugee camps and left 2 million people in dire need of food and medical attention.

Waiting only promises to deliver more death and misery. As the rainy season approaches, and it becomes tougher to bring in humanitarian aid, the death toll could hit 350,000, according to relief agencies.

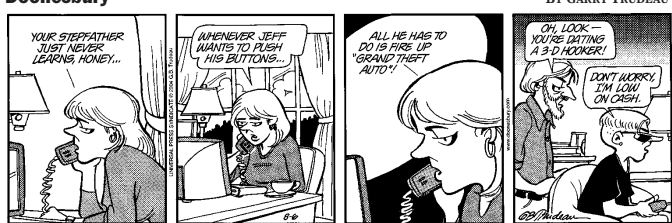
[Sudan recently indicated it would comply with the resolution and with agreements made with Annan and the African Union. If it does not follow through], the world must impose economic sanctions and an arms embargo, with the implicit threat that military intervention could be in the offing.

Military action against the largest country in Africa would be difficult. It would have to be an international effort, with African support. Indeed, Secretary of State Colin Powell has said such action is premature. But the makings are there for such an effort. Britain, Australia and New Zealand have said they'd be willing to contribute to a force to protect Darfurian refugees from the Janjaweed marauders. EU nations might be persuaded to participate. The African Union could increase the 300 troops it has deployed to protect its observers.

The situation in Darfur grows only more extreme. Without a powerful international action, dreadful results seem certain.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Army can transform without missing a beat

BY R.L. BROWNLEE
AND GEN. PETER J. SCHOOMAKER

The last few weeks have seen a lot of discussion — much of it confusing or inaccurate — about the condition and future readiness of the U.S. Army. We owe it to our men and women in uniform, their families, and our country to get the facts right.

No one disputes that there are currently strains on certain segments of our armed forces. A solution some offer is to increase the permanent strength of our Army. But simply adding to the total number of people in uniform does not really get to the heart of the problem.

Let us explain. Today our Army has a total force of more than 1 million soldiers. Yet the vast majority of our Army is not currently deployed. Approximately 123,000 — or less than 12 percent of the total force — support operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. In fact, 123,000 members of the 350,000-strong Army National Guard have not been called up.

Overall, 270,000 soldiers are forward deployed in more than 120 countries, but with a total force in excess of 1 million, this should not stretch the force. Yet, it does. The strain on the force is caused by a force structure that was built for the Cold War. The solution is to create the right number of deployable soldiers with the right skills in the right component.

This is why Army transformation is so critical. And so today, our Army is in the midst of the most sweeping transformation since World War II to significantly increase the number of deployable soldiers and units available around the world.

Army transformation is proceeding along three main avenues.

First, we are restructuring the force into modular formations with the right capabilities for our current and future security environment. This restructuring increases the

number of active-duty combat brigades from 33 to 43 or more, using a combination of new recruits and soldiers drawn from other parts of our Army. Our goal is an Army with more cohesive and combat-ready formations.

Second, we are stabilizing the force with initiatives that eventually will allow most soldiers to remain based at a single installation for longer periods of time. Stabilization will yield a more predictable lifestyle for our soldiers and their families.

Third, we are rebalancing our force between the active component of the Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. This initiative will give our Army more troops available with the skills we need to fight the global war on terror.

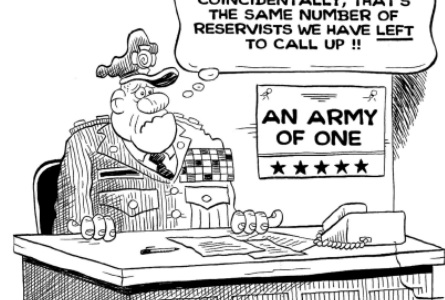
The Department of Defense is expanding our active Army rapidly without sacrificing standards or quality, using emergency authorities.

And we plan to grow the active component of the Army by a total of 30,000 troops over the next three years. It is important to note the difference between growing our Army — a temporary measure granted under the global war on terror authorities and paid for with supplemental dollars — and increasing permanent end strength.

A mandated increase in permanent end strength means that the U.S. Army would be required by law to maintain tens of thousands of additional troops on the payrolls, regardless of the need to cost and pay for them out of the Army's core budget. A mandated increase in permanent end strength would take away dollars needed for current and future programs, and threaten our transformation.

We are already growing our Army about as fast as we can. Our soldiers are highly skilled and well-trained, and it takes time and a significant training base to develop them. This deliberate growth will allow us to

SPROUSE
Illustration by
Sprouse



transform our Army in a way that gets at the heart of the problem, relieves the stress on the force, and does not sacrifice our Army's future.

We are able to grow our Army today because retention and recruiting remain very strong. Despite the obvious dangers, hardships and sacrifices, tens of thousands of qualified soldiers choose to join or stay in the U.S. Army every year. In the active Army, reserves and National Guard, we are meeting our retention goals for this fiscal year. We are also close to meeting our recruitment targets, even as our Army increased those recruiting targets by several thousand this year.

Transforming the force while fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters in the war on terror is a tough management and leadership challenge. It is not unlike tuning an engine while the car is moving — complex, and potentially dangerous.

But when large organizations face demanding new circumstances, they must

change to meet those challenges. Our circumstances today, as an Army serving our nation at war, are providing a tremendous strategic opportunity. The convergence of our current momentum, our focus and the increased resources provided by Congress, over our core budget, in this time of war provide an opportunity for change that we cannot afford to miss.

Simply stated, we have an ambitious task ahead, but with the continued support of the American people, we will get it done. As we overcome these challenges, our all-volunteer Army of active, Reserve and National Guard soldiers are serving with tremendous skill and courage around the world. We are honored to serve with each and every one of them. Rest assured that our Army is not only taking actions to be successful today, but we are seizing an opportunity to remain relevant and ready tomorrow.

R.L. Brownlee is acting secretary of the Army. Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker is chief of staff of the Army.

Don't let Iraq church bombings create a wider war

The (Baltimore) Sun

The coordinated attacks on three churches in Iraq on Sunday, which killed at least a dozen people, were especially troubling for two reasons: First, they represent a lethal escalation of attacks on Iraq's Christian minority that has been going on for some time now. Liquor stores and beauty parlors in Baghdad, typically owned by Christians, have been forced to close by militia groups, and clergy have been threatened in Mosul. Clearly, insurgents are hoping to foment religious discord and, just as clearly, they are hoping to impose a more strident Islamic way of life.

The Christian communities in Iraq are ancient, as are those in Syria, Lebanon and the West Bank. Taken together, the Chaldeans, Assyrian Catholics and Armenian Orthodox account for about 3 percent of Iraq's population. Typically urban and middle class, they were not especially singled out for trouble by Saddam Hussein's regime but were vocal in welcoming its demise. But the chaos in Iraq has opened the door to Islamist militants who [seek] a Muslim theocracy.

Hundreds of Christian families reportedly have already fled abroad, and more wish to follow them. This unhappy development is just one more unintended — but not entirely unpredicted — consequence of President Bush's determination to go to war in Iraq.

An ugly religious fanaticism has taken root there for the first time, and it could very easily come to haunt the United States some day. The president's unwavering focus on the evils of Saddam blinded him to the other potent evils lurking in the wings.

Second, the attacks were evidently designed to send a message not only to Iraqi Christians but to the West as well. Islamist fighters, al-Qaida included, seek to provoke

a general war, one that would lead to the rise of a unified Islamic caliphate stretching from Indonesia to Morocco — and deep into Europe, too. The current violence in Iraq fits in with their vision. But to push the conflict further, it is in their interest to promulgate the idea of a "clash of civilizations."

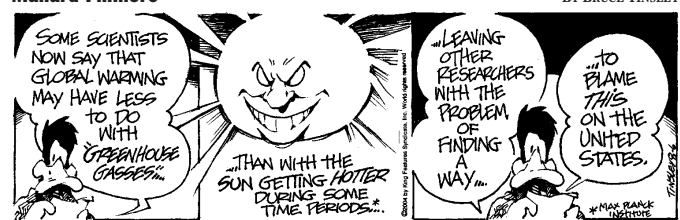
The murder of Christians at services would seem an effective way of creating shock and anger throughout the historically

Christian countries of Europe and America, and set the stage for a furious reaction.

Unfortunately, many people in [the States] are also inclined to see the current conflict as a clash of civilizations. Yet that way lies madness, and untold violence and despair. All of Islam is not the enemy; it is crucial that the United States, as the most powerful nation in the West, never lose sight of that. The goal must be to isolate the extremists, not to play into their hands.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Parks are all wet

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire's state parks are having a rough summer, and it may mean some will close early.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard McLeod said parks' revenue was down more than 10 percent when the fiscal year ended June 30, and dropped even further in July, mostly because of rainy weather.

"We are already off 26.2 percent in the first weeks of July, and that's because of the weather," McLeod said.

Even the Flume, in Franconia Notch, the system's biggest money-maker, was down 14 percent for the first half of July.

At Clough State Park in Weare, revenue was cut almost in half, from \$12,033 in the first half of July last year to \$6,816 this year.

Unusual heirloom

OK McALESTER — Some families have heirloom quilts or clocks. Margie Clark plans to pass a shirved orange to her children.

The shrunken, rock-hard, nearly petrified piece of fruit — it's no longer orange — has been in her family 83 years.

She played with the fruit as a young girl and has heard the story of its origins dozens of times. The orange is older than she is and was a Christmas gift to her father from her aunt in 1921.

Wanting to save the orange for later, her father took it into his room and placed it in a dresser drawer, Clark said. He must have forgotten about it, because when he remembered it, it was no longer edible.

Clark, who said she's nearly 80 now, has no idea then just how long the hardened piece of fruit would endure.

When her father died, the orange came to her. She plans to pass it along to her children.

Unknown candidate

CA SAN BERNARDINO — No one has ever seen or spoken to the Democratic nominee for California's 63rd Assembly District.

Now, the mystery man has disappeared out of the race as mysteriously as he joined it.

D'Andre McNamee ran unopposed for the Democratic nomination on the March ballot, picking up 16,987 votes. McNamee himself did not vote.

His \$900 filing fee was paid for by the state Democratic Central Committee, the San Bernardino County Sun newspaper reported last week.

But spokesmen for the state and county parties said they have never met McNamee and know little about his candidacy. One official even sent along a Christmas card, which went unanswered.

"Due to family and business concerns, as well as the reality that it will be impossible for a Democrat to win, I am dropping out of the race," McNamee said in a news release. The release was issued by a man claiming to be a friend of his.

The statement said the candidate is 31 and co-owns McNamee Trucking in Ontario. But the company's address is in Rancho Cucamonga, according to the secretary of state's office. Candidacy papers for McNamee say he lives in



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Upland, but no listing was found for the candidate or his company.

McNamee's name will stay on the November ballot, a spokesman for the state party said.

Dibs on domain name

IN INDIANAPOLIS — A Web site with the same name as the Democratic presidential ticket failed to attract the \$150,000 minimum bid its owner wanted at an online auction.

Kerry Edwards, 34, of Indianapolis, registered his kerryedwards.com Web address in March 2002 to post family photographs online.

Interest in the name climbed when John Kerry named John Edwards as his running mate, and Kerry Edwards said he had received offers of up to \$30,000 for the name.

He then decided to try to sell the Web address through Sedo.com, which specializes in selling Internet domain names.

One wild ride

PA NANTICOKE — A helmet would be good, but police said clothes would be a nice start when riding a motorcycle.

A local dentist pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct for driving a motorcycle with a naked woman on the back. The woman faces more serious charges.

Dr. Joseph P. Gronka, 39, was pulled over June 12 when wearing Lisa Druzdzowski, 39, riding naked on the back of his motorcycle.

Since then, Gronka has paid \$277.50 in court costs and fines.

Gronka declined to comment.

Police said Druzdzowski was belligerent when she was taken into custody and threw a small pipe into her cell toilet, then kicked an officer who tried to prevent her from flushing the toilet.

TV is good for you

TX HOUSTON — An 11-year-old boy who was bitten by a shark off the Gulf of Mexico learned how to fight off the animal — by punching it in the gills — from watching television.

"I was watching TV the day before and I saw that on the Discovery Channel," Aaron Perez said Monday on NBC's "Today" show.

A surgeon at Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital in Houston spent more than four hours reattaching the boy's arm after last weekend's attack.

Chicken-catcher quits

FL KEY WEST — The man hired to rid this resort city of its prolific and unabashed chickens quit his post, saying city leaders were not committed to the cause.

In January, Key West officials agreed to pay Armando Parra \$20 for each nuisance chicken he caught until Sept. 30. His limit was 900 birds.

Parra, a barber and self-taught bird catcher, had rounded up 542 chickens, a quarter of the estimated population roaming about in the city. But, on July 23, Parra turned in his city-issued traps and said he was going freelance.

"I just thought it was a better idea if I went out on my own," he said.

Parra said the city issued "chicken lists" telling him which poultry to capture. He said the birds' wanderings made his job impossible.

Biden's kitchen blaze

DE WILMINGTON — Lightning struck the home of Sen. Joseph Biden, starting a small fire that was contained to the kitchen.

No one was injured in Sunday's fire, which started amid a storm that caused serious flooding in Pennsylvania and knocked out power to hundreds of Delaware homes and businesses.

Biden is Delaware's senior senator and the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His wife, Jill, reported the fire, officials said.

School settles lawsuit

HI HONOLULU — A Big Island charter school will re-examine its disciplinary policies and train its faculty on when it is appropriate to search students to settle a lawsuit accusing the principal and his secretary of illegally strip-searching a 15-year-old girl.

The agreement settles a lawsuit against Steve Hirakami, principal of the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences charter school in Pahoa, and his secretary, Andrea Irvine.

The federal lawsuit was filed on behalf of the student identified as "Jane Doe," and her mother, who said her daughter was forced to remove her clothes after she and two other students — one female, one female — were accused of stealing \$30 from a school van driver on Jan. 30, 2003.



Sit. Good duck A young girl is silhouetted against the waters of Tallahassee's Lake Ella in Florida as she feeds the ducks pieces of bread.



It's more comfortable than it looks A squirrel allows its legs to dangle freely as it lounges on a section of fence in Alexandria, Va.



Perfecting play

Stevie Strickland, 10, receives help from band director Scott Tarwater on the proper technique of blowing through a clarinet mouthpiece during a summer band class at Charles Stones Intermediate Center in Garden City, Kan.

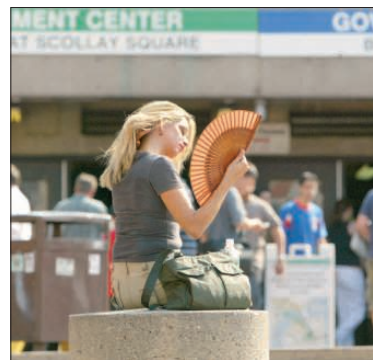


Cruising right along Competitors pass a large boat during a dragon boat race along the Hudson River off Manhattan, N.Y. Teams from around the country and Canada competed in races during the third annual Dragon Boat Race Festival.



Great seats

Visitors to Baltimore's Inner Harbor sit on benches and watch a lightning show as a slow storm front pushes across the area Saturday evening.



The heat is on

Yolanda Cerda of Madrid, Spain, tries to stay cool in front of Boston's Government Center subway station in Boston.



Eye on the sea

Wrightsville Beach lifeguards Grey Liston, left, and Wes Whitaker keep an eye on the swimmers in the waters off Wrightsville Beach, N.C.



Way up there

Motorcycle daredevil "Captain" Robbie Knievel soars over seven vintage aircraft on the flight deck of the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City to promote a movie chronicling the life of his famous father, Evel Knievel.

Life for officer's death

HI HONOLULU — A man who shot and killed a Honolulu police officer has received the state's harshest penalty — life without parole. Shane Mark, 29, was convicted of second-degree murder for killing Officer Glen Gaspar in March 2003.

Circuit Judge Karen Ahn took Mark's criminal history into consideration, as well as nine felonies he committed during the shooting and another shooting a month earlier.

Border more violent

AZ PHOENIX — As the U.S. Border Patrol steps up surveillance along the Arizona-Mexico border, immigrant smugglers are acting more violently toward agents, officials say.

There have been about the same number of assaults this year as there were at this time in 2003, but the degree of violence is significantly higher. Border Patrol spokesman Andy Adams said.

Adams said the agency has seen dramatic increases in violence involving guns and vehicles. Smugglers have been ramming Border Patrol vehicles with their cars and chasing down agents while driving or on foot.

There also has been a rise in smugglers attacking agents with softball-sized rocks to divert their attention away from border crossings.

"We're not talking about the rocks you throw at the lake or around the neighborhood as a kid," said Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels. "We're talking about big honking rocks."

The most serious rock attacks result in agents losing consciousness and blood, and requiring hospital and recovery time.

Air tankers denied work

MT BILLINGS — Federal officials denied requests by two companies to return several large air tankers to service to fight wildfires, saying additional information was needed first on the life of the planes.

Officials lacked information on "operational life limit" of aircraft operated by Neptune Aviation, of Missoula, Mont., and Minden Air Corp., of Minden, Nev., one of the criteria needed to help prove the air tankers airworthy, said Rose Davis, a spokeswoman at the National Interagency Fire Center.

If officials received that information, they would reconsider returning the air tankers to service, she said.

Both companies operate planes known as P2Vs, Davis said, and manufacturer Lockheed Martin may have the information available but it is considered proprietary.

Sewage spill kills fish

VT NORTHFIELD — A chemical release by the municipal sewage plant is being blamed for killing a significant number of fish on more than a half-mile stretch of the Dog River.

An infusion of chlorine was accidentally leaked into the river from the sewage treatment plant as work was being done to upgrade the facility's chlorinating system, Northfield Village Manager Charles Morse said.

"We knew we released chlorine, but we didn't detect a problem

until later on," Morse said. "We're upset that we killed fish, obviously; we try to be as environmentally conscious as we can be."

New cattle disease cases

WY CHEYENNE — The infectious cattle disease brucellosis has turned up in a fourth herd in Wyoming — this time in Campbell County in northeastern Wyoming, with no apparent link to the previous cases. Two 11-year-old cows tested positive among a suspect herd of 50 head at a livestock auction in Pierre, S.D.

Brucellosis causes cattle to abort. In the rare cases that humans get it, such as by drinking unpasteurized milk, it causes flu-like symptoms.

Shirt doesn't fly

FL MIAMI — A couple returning home from a Costa Rican vacation was ejected from an American Airlines flight because the man was wearing a T-shirt depicting a bare breast.

Oscar Arela and his girlfriend were removed from Flight 952 after he refused to change the shirt or turn it inside out at Miami International Airport.

"It's a picture of a man and woman, and the woman's breast is showing," said his girlfriend, Tala Tow. "The flight attendant basically walked up to us and yelled, 'You have to take off that shirt right now.'"

American spokesman Tim Wagner said Sunday that crewmembers acted properly, and said the shirt was more graphic than the couple described. The airline gave them a refund, he said.

Stolen parrot returned

MA SAUGUS — A family bid goodbye to a baby parrot they had bought for \$250 in a deal that proved too good to be true — the valuable bird had been stolen from a pet store.

Fourteen-year-old Alisha Gugliemi and her family lived in the foyer of the Saugus Police Station and parted ways with "Smokey" the African Grey parrot, a species that normally could fetch about \$1,600.

The girl's father, Dominic, was unaware the bird was hot property when he bought it. Police believe the parrot had been stolen hours earlier from a Petco store in Saugus.

When the family learned of the circumstances through an article in the Boston Herald, Domenic Gugliemi called police. After Smokey was returned, Petco issued the family a \$100 gift certificate.

Prison adding employees

MS TUTTILER — Almost two weeks after 28 inmates set fire to mattresses, clothing and a portable toilet, a private prison is hiring additional guards.

Officials at the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility said the move was not due to the disturbance but to an expanding inmate population.

Warden James Cooke said the prison would add 37 employees, including about 25 guards.

The facility now houses about 850 inmates, with a capacity of a little more than 1,000. There are about 120 inmates from Colorado, 690 from Hawaii and 40 from Tallahatchie County.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Jupiter is a jovial sugar daddy in the sky that would love to bestow us with more than we want (whether or not we can handle it). He forms a stressed angle to Pluto, which rules life's extremes. Don't let your priviledges get the best of you. If you feel Mr. Greed taking hold, the best way to handle it is to do the opposite of what he's telling you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 6). This year, you clarify your personal goals and make new ones. By the end of this month, you're seeing yourself in a whole different light. Old love could appear next month, ready to come back. Travel is distant shores in December. You'll start making more money after you educate yourself in January. Special loves are Cancer or Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you go after your career goal full force, you'll have it by next week. Time and energy investments have more better returns than monetary investments do. Passionate undercurrents in a friendship are featured.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Add some variation to your schedule to avoid burnout. You'll benefit financially by paying closer attention to the concerns of the people around you. A Pisces or Virgo will keep you laughing. Imagination will win points tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Dynamic magnetism is yours to play around with. You're a heartbreaker—that's a given—but you may also be a dealmaker and a leader. Keep your promises, and you get new responsibilities and extra credit.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be minor irritations at home—keep your cool. Your personality could use sincere attention. Sort out your loyalties. Friends aren't helpful in making a difficult decision—do it yourself! Don't accept less than what's fair.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's hard to focus on how lucky and gifted you are when there's unrest in a relationship. Your partner isn't perfect, but this person has much to teach you.

Be willing to compromise, at least on one issue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You are exceptionally confident. Romantic ideals need adjusting to fit reality. Once that happens, you'll be on the brink of a major love affair.

Tonight, it pays to be courteous even if you don't like someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You'll be introduced to people who can help your career. Listen to your most fundamental instincts.

Developing friendships are refreshingly real and honest. Your family life is like a circus. Declare a truce tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're super-powerful now. If you are unattached or looking for employment, don't rely on friends to set you up. Clean your living space to make room for the new. Be intentional and proactive, instead of letting life rule you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Be grateful for what a loved one brings to your life. In general, a lot more can be accomplished by two than one now. A forgotten obligation keeps coming back until you deal with it. Call that phone number.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Extra attention goes a long way, especially if you're giving it to yourself. You need love, pampering and gentle talk. Your appearance reflects inner growth and transformation. Accept all invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You'll be torn between handling work details (or at least giving them some thought) and investing your time and attention in playing hard. The id wins out, and you don't even feel like going back to the grindstone after lunch.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're on a roller coaster of emotion.

Take steps to prevent minor things from ruling your life. To a dear friend, your thoughtful gesture means more than a expensive one. What you do for others will be long remembered.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jilison



Cavin and Hobbies

Jump Start

Zits

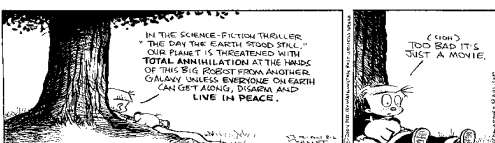
Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

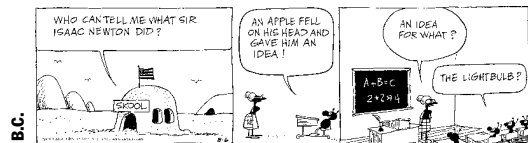
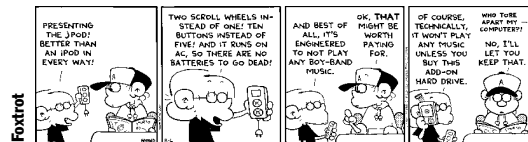
Red and Rover

Better or Worse



Peanuts





Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29				30						31		
32				33					34			
				35				36				
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41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

Across

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 | Ruin the veneer | people | instrument |
| 4 | Quid pro quo | 4 Rose | 28 "Hair" |
| 8 | Moist | 5 G. Gordon Liddy | 27 Mentor |
| 10 | -- Baba | book | 28 Grub |
| 13 | Detergent brand | 6 Commotion | 30 "Oops!" |
| 14 | Duel toot | 7 Apiece | 33 Extras |
| 15 | Risque | 8 Stop | 34 "OK" |
| 17 | Aching | 9 Like two peas in -- | 36 "Fame" singer |
| 18 | April 1 victim | 10 Unadorned | 37 Flavor enhancer |
| 19 | Duck down | 11 Juror, | 38 Shaving-cream additive |
| 20 | Caustic | theoretically | |
| 22 | Ostentatious display | 16 Invent | 39 Glowing review |
| 24 | Family | 19 Formerly, formerly | 40 Pastoral PO letters |
| 25 | In the wings | 20 Height (Pref.) | 42 Night bird |
| 29 | Ump | 21 Staff leader | 43 -- Schwarz |
| 30 | Lustiania sinker | 22 Under way | 44 Numerical prefix |
| 31 | Sine-non link | 23 -- first you don't ... | 45 Extremity |

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	D	D	S		S	E	T			M	O	J	O
H	E	A	T			P	E	A		A	V	O	W
E	M	M	A			A	R	F		R	E	E	
M	I	N	N		N	O	W		F	A	I	R	
						C	A	N	D	E	L	A	B
C	H	I	E	F		O	T	T		I	O	N	
H	O	D	S			D	N	A		E	D	D	Y
I	R	E		P	E	N		A	T	S	E	A	
C	A	N	D	E	L	A	R	I	A				
				T	O	R	I	U	R	G	E	N	T
O	M	I	T			L	A	M		E	V	E	R
C	A	F	E			A	G	O		R	I	T	E
T	O	Y	S			H	E	R		E	L	S	E

Down

- 1 Long March leader
2 TV alien

8-6

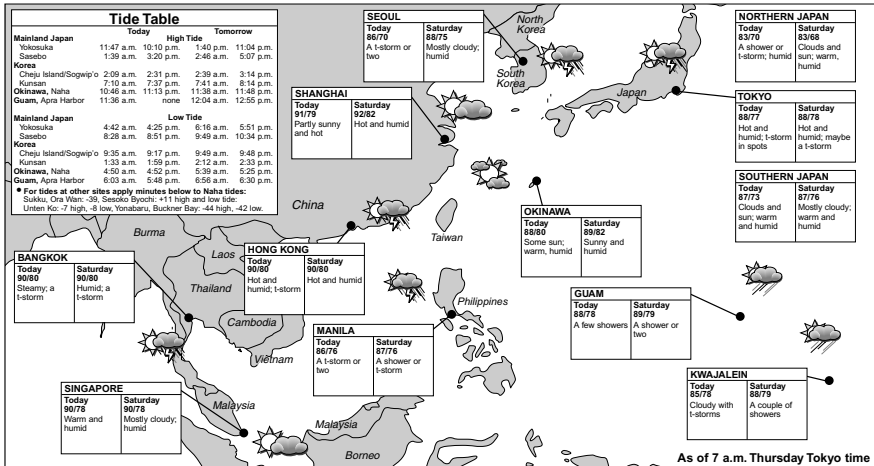
CRYPTOQUIP

CL Y NAHWTO WYESAAU
QCW LTTU PECSA Y ZCS,
C WENNTWA QA'U ZA Y

L H A P E A O S L H C A H .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD A WARSAW
 RESIDENT'S OPINION ON SOME RANDOM TOPIC
 COUNT AS A POLE POSITION?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals F

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 89, low 79. Monday: Thunderstorms, high 89, low 79.	KADENA Sunday: Sunny, high 90, low 81. Monday: Mostly sunny, high 90, low 81.	SEUL Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 70. Monday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 74.	MANILA Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 75. Monday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 75.	HAGATNA Sunday: Showers, high 90, low 80. Monday: Showers, high 88, low 79.
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Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	91/67	Los Angeles	80/63
Amarillo	95/66	Little Rock	96/74
Anchorage	70/53	Louisville	92/67
Asheville	91/65	Miami	90/75
Baltimore	92/72	Milwaukee	71/56
Birmingham	97/74	Nashville	95/70
Bismark	76/53	New York	89/70
Boise	93/62	Omaha	78/60
Boston	80/64	Orlando	91/75
Brownsville	97/77	Philadelphia	91/72
Buffalo	76/58	Phoenix	107/86
Burlington	80/54	Pittsburgh	86/62
Charleston, SC	97/77	Portland, OR	76/59
Charlotte	95/72	Portland, ME	81/58
Cleveland	75/60	Salt Lake City	96/71
Columbus, OH	81/62	St. Louis	88/63
Duluth	69/48	San Antonio	99/76
El Paso	98/74	San Diego	72/66
Hartford	88/62	San Juan	91/77
Helena	87/56	Tampa	86/77
Indianapolis	91/59	Tulsa	100/71
Jacksonville	95/75	Washington	93/74
Kansas City	83/63	Wichita	92/68

Friday, August 06



Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/80	Iwakuni	89/75
Beijing	86/74	Kadena AB	88/80
Camp Casey	85/71	Kunshan AB	86/73
Christchurch	46/31	Kwajalein	85/78
Diego Garcia	82/75	Manila	86/76
Hagata	88/78	Misawa AB	82/67
Hanoi	88/77	Osan	86/72
Hong Kong	90/80	Perth	56/42
Honolulu	89/77	Pusan	84/73

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/76	Budapest	80/55	Kabul	105/87	Nairobi	73/49
Athens	90/71	Buenos Aires	49/32	Kiev	67/51	New Delhi	90/73
Auckland	58/47	Cairo	100/70	Kuwait	115/81	Oslo	79/62
Baghdad	114/83	Cancon	89/75	London	78/63	Paris	77/56
Barbados	89/73	Cape Town	57/38	Madrid	94/70	Rio de Janeiro	72/62
Barcelona	76/65	Geneva	71/59	Mexico City	77/52	Rome	78/60
Berlin	85/65	Istanbul	81/63	Montreal	67/56	St. Petersburg	77/60
Bermuda	87/73	Jerusalem	88/66	Mogadishu	82/70	Stockholm	78/61
Brussels	78/57	Johannesburg	78/53	Moscow	80/60	Warsaw	76/54



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Action sports show respect for their elders

Older athletes prominent as X Games turn 10

BY RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — They are athletes by their sports' standards, flipping and swooping and surviving bone-crunching falls in a world that worships the young.

Look at Jeff Ward, a Supermoto rider at 43. Then there's Dave Mirra, a 30-year-old BMX biker who just wants to pack his gear and go home at the end of a long day. Bob Burnquist is a 4-year-old daughter who was on a skateboard before she could walk.

Sure, the X Games are marking their 10th year with the usual reckless mix of breathtaking speed and bravura-testing midair stunts. But now some of the event's biggest names are well outside the youth culture that defines action sports.

They've become elder statesmen in pursuits that deliver harsh bodily punishment for not-quite-complete twists and awkward landings.

Burnquist, Mirra and a handful of other stars have video games named for them, appear in TV milk ads and have written autobiographies. They are the mainstream, maturing faces of alternative sports.

"It's awesome," said longtime dirt bike rider Mike Metzger, who appeared in Mountain Dew commercials and lands a backflip in the movie "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

"And it's totally ridiculous that I'm a well-known celebrity now because of all the coverage."

Organizers of the X Games,

which begin Thursday in the Los Angeles area, are banking on the star power of the sports' established athletes. (The Games will be broadcast live on ESPN, ABC and AFN, check scoreboard page for listings.) For the first time, qualifying rounds have been eliminated.

Instead, industry experts selected up to 10 people to compete in each of 17 finals-only events.

The oldest athlete is Ward. The youngest is a returning champion, 14-year-old skateboarder Ryan Shekter, who is on his way to ninth grade in Orange County. Shekter said "it's been a little weird" going head-to-head against competitors nearly twice his age.

"This is what it's been like forever. I've always skated against older people," he said.

Media exposure of aging stars like Tony Hawk — who is working as an announcer this year — has helped legitimize action sports for parents and allowed kids to develop skills more quickly, X Games General Manager Chris Stepienack said.

"Now you've got less of a stigma attached to alternative sports, he said. "The youngsters

are coming up."

Pro skateboarder Andy MacDonald, 31, finds himself swooping past kids as young as 5 when he shows up to skate for fun at parks around the country. "I'd be lying if I didn't say it makes me feel old," he said. "I wish I started that young because it seems like you're made out of rubber and the learning curve goes up faster."

Falls are frequent in action sports, at any age.

"The younger the body, the easier it is when you slam," said Burnquist, who has recovered from 25 broken bones. "When I get hurt, it's time to heal. It's just heal, heal, and then it's time to get back on the board."

"Pretty soon you won't be marketable any more. Because kids don't want to see their fathers skating."

Andy MacDonald
31-year-old pro skateboarder

year on a gigantic new ramp he helped develop after getting bored with conventional half-pipes.

"I'm feeling mentally 18, but my body feels 60," he said. "I'm not going to lie."

Mirra, who has hosted shows on MTV, feels distanced at times from the young bike riders at skate parks.

"My wants and needs have

X Games for all ages

Competitors for the 10th annual X Games range in age from 14 to 43. Some of the event's most recognizable athletes are well outside the youth culture that still defines action sports.

Some high profile competitors at the 2004 X Games

NAME	AGE	SPORT	BEGAN COMPETITION
Bob Burnquist	27	Skateboard	1992
Innovator who was the first to loop a natural full pipe in 2003			
Andy MacDonald	31	Skateboard	1996
Had Highest "Overall Points" in World Cup Skateboarding, 1998-2003			
Mike Metzger	28	Moto X	1990
A chief pioneer and creative force in freestyle motocross			
Dave Mirra	30	Freestyle BMX	1992
Most X Game gold medals with 11; tied with Tony Hawk for most overall medals with 16			
Ryan Shekter	14	Skateboard	2003
The youngest skateboarder to win gold at the X Games			
Kelly Slater	32	Surfing	1990
Six-time world champion			
Jeff Ward	43	Moto X	1977
Has raced several disciplines incl. motocross, Supermoto, Indy 500			

Source: ESPN.com

changed a little bit in terms of living to ride a bike every day," he said. "It's more put your bike in the car, go to the skate park, ride and go home."

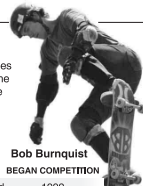
Action sports stars make most of their money from sponsorships, appearance fees and videos. Several have launched businesses, ranging from Burnquist's organic fruit and vegetable farm to Ward's DC Shoes. Surfer Kelly Slater is starting a weekly satellite radio show.

"Thank God for the business thing," Way said. "Right now it's taking a lot of pressure off my skate career."

MacDonald lends his name to mass-marketed skateboards and gear, cycling the time when he'll no longer be admired by the young.

"Pretty soon you won't be marketable any more," he said. "Because kids don't want to see their fathers skating."

On the net: <http://espn.go.com/espn/sommers/2004/index>



Bob Burnquist

Bryant's accuser considering whether to go ahead with trial

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN
The Associated Press

DENVER — The woman who accused Kobe Bryant of rape will have to discuss with prosecutors whether she will go ahead with the criminal case because she fears the release of court documents about her sex life threatens her chance of getting a fair hearing, one of her lawyers said Wednesday.

John Clune said his 20-year-old client will have to talk to prosecutors soon about that and will also consider whether to file a civil suit against the NBA star.

Asked if his client is considering dropping out of the criminal case, Clune told The Associated Press: "That's something she and prosecutors will have to discuss in the immediate future. The DA's office will have to make that decision on what they want to do."

The woman's other lawyer, L. Lin Wood, said decisions on how to proceed should be made in a matter of days. Bryant is sched-

uled to go on trial Aug. 27 in Eagle, Colo.

"This young woman is not going away. Whether it proceeds criminally or civilly or both, justice is going to be had for this young woman," Clune said.

Prosecutors have been in constant contact with the accuser and her lawyers and were told the woman would still participate even after the release of the transcripts, district attorney's spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said Wednesday.

"Nothing has changed with our plans of going forward with the prosecution of this case," she said.

Under pressure from the U.S. Supreme Court, District Judge Terry Ruckriegel on Monday released 200 pages of transcripts from a closed-door hearing in June. The transcripts had been emailed to The Associated Press and six other media organizations, who fought for the right to publish their contents.

The documents include testimony from a DNA expert for the de-

fense, Elizabeth Johnson, who says she is convinced the accuser had sex with someone after Bryant and before she contacted authorities — a claim that Clune has vehemently denied.

Johnson based her conclusion on the discovery of another man's sperm on the woman when she underwent a rape exam at a hospital. Prosecutors have suggested the woman put on underwear that hadn't been washed before going to the hospital, transferring semen from a man identified only as "Mr. X" to her body.

The judge has said the defense can present evidence about the woman's sexual activities in the three days before the July 1, 2003, hospital exam, saying it is relevant to help determine the cause of her injuries, the source of DNA evidence and her credibility.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with the woman at a rail-area resort last summer. If convicted, he faces four years in life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

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Mavs trade All-Star Waker to Hawks

Atlanta sends Terry, Henderson to Dallas in four-player deal

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Dallas Mavericks traded Atlanta Walker and Tony Delk to the Atlanta Hawks for Jason Terry and Alan Henderson on Wednesday.

The Mavericks also will receive a first-round draft pick from the Hawks.

Terry, the Hawks' first-round pick in the 1999 NBA Draft, averaged 16.8 points and 5.4 assists last season but is more of a combo guard than a pure point guard. The Mavericks, however, need a point guard after losing Steve Nash to free agency.

and they see Terry as a scorer who has flourished in coach Don Nelson's system.

The Hawks see Walker as a crucial piece in their rebuilding efforts.

The 6-foot-9 Walker can play either forward position. Walker has averaged 19.9 points in his career, including 14 points with 8.3 rebounds last season.

Like Terry, the 6-2 Delk can score from the point guard position but is too small for a full-time role at shooting guard. Delk averaged 6 points while playing only 15.4 minutes per game for Dallas last season.

With the trade, the Hawks will have a new starting backcourt.

They traded shooting guard Stephen Jackson to the Indiana Pacers for forward Al Harrington last month.

Knight and new coach Mike Woodson met with free agent center Erick Dampier in Utah last month. The team also has re-signed center Jason Collier.

In about 15 months, Knight has almost completely turned over the roster he inherited from Pete Babcock.

Knight was hired to replace Babcock on April 2, 2003. With the exits of Terry and Henderson, forward Chris Crawford would be the only remaining player from the Babcock era.

T-Wolves match offer for Hassell

MINNEAPOLIS — Trenton Hassell will remain with Minnesota after the Timberwolves matched the Portland Trail Blazers' offer for the restricted free agent Wednesday.

Terms of the deal were not announced, but Hassell's agent, Mark Bartelstein, said the Blazers' offer was worth \$27 million over three years.

Hassell, one of the club's top defenders, started 74 games for Minnesota last season after two seasons with the Chicago Bulls, who picked him in the second round of the 2001 draft. Defense is his specialty: he averaged 5 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.6 assists.

Source: Free agent Traylor headed back to Cleveland

CLEVELAND — Free agent Robert "Tractor" Traylor is returning for a second

stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers, a league source told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

Traylor will be in Cleveland on Wednesday for a physical, and as long as he passes, he'll sign a one-year deal, the source said.

The Cavaliers will use his \$1.6 million mid-level exception to sign Traylor, who will compete with recently acquired Drew Gooden to be the Cavaliers' starting power forward.

Report: Spurs resign Horry

HOUSTON — Robert Horry, who has five championship rings, re-signed with the San Antonio Spurs, according to a broadcast report Tuesday.

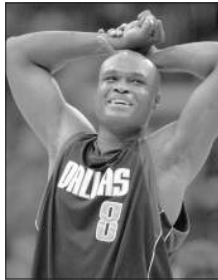
Horry told Houston television station KPRV that he's signed a one-year deal with a player's option for the second year, but did not disclose the financial terms.

Horry averaged 4.8 points and 3.6 rebounds last year in San Antonio.

Veteran Rogers joins Hornets

NEW ORLEANS — The Hornets signed Rodney Rogers to a one-year contract on Tuesday, addressing the possibility that Jamal Mashburn might be hobbled by a knee injury next season.

New Orleans coach Byron Scott, who also coached Rogers in New Jersey, said the 6-foot-7 forward likely would start at small forward if Mashburn remains sidelined with knee problems.



The Dallas Mavericks traded Antonio Walker, an All-Star forward, to Atlanta on Wednesday. Walker averaged 14 points and 8.3 rebounds last season.

An 11-year veteran, Rogers declined to exercise an option on the final year of his contract with the Nets and became an unrestricted free agent.

Wizards sign St. Walker

WASHINGTON — The Washington Wizards signed free agent Samaki Walker on Wednesday.

Walker, a forward, has played with Dallas, San Antonio, the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami.

In his eight-year NBA career, Walker is averaging 5.5 points and 4.9 rebounds.

U.S. team struggles before squeaking by Germany

By ROY KAMMERER

The Associated Press

COLOGNE, Germany — Things are not looking good for the NBA stars on the U.S. Olympic basketball team.

The Americans needed a final-shot three-pointer by Al Iverson from just across mid-court Wednesday to pull out an 80-77 exhibition victory over Germany — a team that failed to even qualify for the Athens Games.

A day after losing 95-75 to unheralded Italy, the U.S. players celebrated their last-gasp triumph against Germany as though

they had won an NBA championship. When Iverson's second three-pointer in the final 1½ minutes went through the net, two-time league MVP Tim Duncan raised a finger to the sky as if to say, "We're No. 1!"

Other team members piled atop Iverson on the court.

"That was great. It felt good because it was the first time in my life I hit a buzzer-beater like that," Iverson said. "That's what basketball is all about."

Duncan led the Americans with 19 points, followed by Carmelo Anthony with 16 and Iverson with 15. But the United States again

struggled against a team thought to be no competition.

The Germans' top player, Dallas Mavericks All-Star Dirk Nowitzki, appeared to have sent the game to overtime by making a three-pointer over two defenders to tie the score at 77 with 3.2 seconds left. Nowitzki scored a game-high 32 points.

But Iverson, a U.S. co-captain, came through with his own clutch shot, one day after calling the upset rout against Italy "a wake-up call." That 17-point difference was the largest margin of defeat for an NBA-stocked U.S. team.

"We made a lot of improve-

ments over the game last night, but we have a long way to go," U.S. coach Larry Brown said.

One of Iverson's other four three-pointers came with 1:18 left, staking the Americans to a 75-72 lead. Nowitzki cut that deficit to 75-74 with two free throws with 35 seconds to go.

Anthony, the Denver Nuggets' star rookie, made two foul shots to make it 77-74, setting up the final long-distance drama.

The Americans held a slim lead early, never leading by more than five points, until Nowitzki's six straight points on jumpers lifted the Germans to a 59-56 lead with 2:40 left in the third quarter.

The Americans showed more intensity and better defense from the start than against Italy.

Iverson set the tone in the opening minutes, hounding German point guard Steffen Hamann until jarring the ball loose and finishing a fastbreak with a layup.

"It's my job to set an example on defense and then the others will follow," the 76ers guard said.

The U.S. team plays its first game in Athens against Puerto Rico on Aug. 15 as it tries to win a fourth straight gold medal since NBA players were allowed to compete in the Olympics. The Americans' next exhibition game is against Serbia-Montenegro.



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The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Boston Red Sox owner John Henry said the team offered Nomar Garciaparra a \$60 million contract a second time in March in a genuine effort to keep him, but the slugger had no interest in it.

"We were trying to find a way to sign him, and we never received a counter [offer] to any of the proposals we made," Henry told Boston-area reporters Tuesday, when the Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 5-2.

Henry also said that six days before Saturday's trade of Garciaparra to the Chicago Cubs, Garciaparra's agent told General Manager Theo Epstein that he had to talk the star shortstop out of asking to be traded.

"We knew from that that he



Briefs

didn't want to be here," Henry said.

Garciaparra is in the final year of his contract and is eligible to be a free agent after the World Series. The Red Sox came close to dealing him in December. He rejected a four-year, \$60 million extension offer made in March 2003 and a \$48 million offer made after the season.

Angels sign Galarraga to minor league contract

MINNEAPOLIS — Andres Galarraga is back in baseball.

The Anaheim Angels signed Galarraga to a minor league contract Wednesday, and the

43-year-old free agent first baseman will report to Triple-A Salt Lake on Thursday.

Galarraga recently beat cancer for a second time and wants to return to the major leagues so he can reach 400 home runs. He has 398, tied with Dale Murphy for 40th on the career list.

Angels place Bengie Molina on DL with broken finger

MINNEAPOLIS — Anaheim Angels catcher Bengie Molina was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday with a broken finger.

Molina, batting 289 with eight homers and 41 RBIs in 228 at-bats, broke the tip of his right index finger in Saturday's game against Seattle.

Molina's brother, Jose, will take over most of the catching duties in his absence.

Owner: Nomar wanted out of Boston

Mulder gets full support

A's ace wins MLB-best 15th as teammates score 13 runs in N.Y.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mark Mulder was struggling and the A.L. West-leading Oakland Athletics were trailing.

No problem. His teammates picked him up. Bobby Crosby and Jermaine Dye made rally-killing plays on defense, and Scott Hatteberg homered twice and drove in five runs to make Mulder the majors' first 15-game winner with a 13-4 victory over the A.L. East-leading New York Yankees on Tuesday night.

"The defense was outstanding and we had a lot of good at-bats," A's manager Ken Macha said. "I don't think Mark had his best stuff."

Mulder (15-3) and the visiting A's found themselves in a 4-1 hole after Jorge Posada hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Gary Sheffield lined his 24th in the third.

But after Oakland tied it in the fourth on Crosby's two-run double and Eric Byrnes' two-out RBI single, rookie shortstop Crosby made a diving catch to start a double play. Then, with two runners on, Dye made an acrobatic catch near the wall in right field to take away a hit from Derek Jeter.

In the fifth, Crosby made two neat plays on consecutive grounders to throw out Posada and Hideki Matsui.

Crosby's shortstop made about four or five great plays, and it was a real momentum stopper for us on several of them," said Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, the reigning AL Gold Glove shortstop.



Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro passed Babe Ruth on the career hits list, moving to 36th place with his 2,874th hit on Tuesday.

Mulder won at a ballpark in which he usually struggles. He was 0-4 with a 9.97 ERA at Yankee Stadium in the regular season, and 1-1 at New York in the 2001 playoffs.

"I was just struggling with my delivery in the early innings. Every night is different. Some starts you feel great. Tonight, I didn't," said Mulder, who gave up four runs, eight hits and five walks in seven innings.

"We won the ballgame. I don't care what my record is." Mulder won with a single and added his 1,000th career hit as Mulder won for the 13th time in 41 decisions. Hatteberg hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Jon Lieber (7-7), and added his 13th homer, a three-run drive off Felix Heredia in the eighth.

"I didn't make adjustments, that's the bottom line," said Lieber, who could be headed to the bullpen when Mike Mussina comes off the disabled list. "I'm just going to have to go down and

work on it. I've just got to make better pitches and I wasn't able to do it."

In other A.L. games on Tuesday:

Red Sox 5, Devil Rays 2: Curt Schilling pitched a six-hitter for his third complete game of the season and Jason Varitek hit a two-run homer to lead visiting Boston.

Schilling (13-5) struck out seven and walked one in his 82nd complete game.

Rocco Baldelli homered for Tampa Bay and Rob Bell (4-5) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rangers 5, Tigers 4: At Detroit, Mark Teixeira and Kevin Mench homered, and Eric Young hit a treaking RBI single off Nate Robertson (9-6) in the seventh for Texas.

Frank Francisco (3-1) pitched 1 1/3 perfect innings in relief of Kenny Rogers, who failed to become the American League's second 14-game winner.

Twins 10, Angels 0: The host Twins hit four home runs and turned a season-high five double plays, winning for the 12th time in 14 games.

Winning pitcher Carlos Silva (10-7) gave up 11 hits, struck out three and walked two in his first complete game. Torii Hunter, Corey Koskie, Justin Morneau and Henry Blanco homered for Minnesota.

Ryan Lackey (9-10) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Blue Jays 7, Indians 6: Pinch-hitter Frank Menchino drove a bases-loaded walk in the eighth inning after Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer to tie it as



Mark Mulder (15-3) gave up four runs and eight hits in seven innings on Tuesday, but won his first regular-season game at Yankee Stadium.

Toronto erased a 5-3 deficit with four runs in the bottom of the eighth.

Justin Speier (3-6) allowed one hit in a scoreless eighth inning to get credit for the victory.

Orioles 9-5, Mariners 7-4: Rafael Palmeiro passed Babe Ruth on the career hits list, and the host Orioles swept a doubleheader against the Mariners for the first time in 16 years.

After going 2-for-3 in the day game to tie Ruth for 36th place,

Palmeiro moved past the Bambino in the night game with his 2,874th career hit. Palmeiro drove in three runs in the first game.

Javy Lopez hit a three-run homer in the first game, and Melvin Mora and Larry Bigbie went deep in the second for the Orioles, who clinched their first home series win since May 7-9.

Seattle, which stranded 25 runners in the two games, has lost five straight and eight of nine.

Giants' newcomer Lowry throws three-hit shutout

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Noah Lowry got called up by the San Francisco Giants on short notice, and made quick work of the Cincinnati Reds for his first major league victory.

Lowry took a no-hitter into the seventh inning of the Giants' 11-0 victory Tuesday night, finishing with a three-hitter in his fourth big league start. He was recalled to start for Dustin Hermanson, whom the Giants will try to use as a closer.

"He's the star of the game," Cincinnati manager Dave Miley said of the rookie left-hander. "A three-hit shutout, you can't get much better than that."

Lowry didn't envision that performance this soon.

"I would have said, 'You're crazy, a shut-out,'" he said. "But you've got to believe in yourself that you can go out and do that. We had the momentum the whole game."

Lowry struck out nine, walked two and also had two singles. He didn't allow a hit until D'Angelo Jimenez's leadoff single in the seventh, and the crowd of 41,228 gave Lowry a brief standing ovation.

"This guy's going to be something," Giants manager Felipe Alou said.

J.T. Snow, Barry Bonds and Pedro Feliz hit consecutive homers in the seventh to back Lowry. Bonds homered twice and matched a season high with five RBIs, raising his home-run total to 29 this season and

NL Roundup

687 in his career. Snow matched a career high with four hits, including a homer.

The Reds activated Ken Griffey Jr. from the disabled list before the game, but he didn't play as Cincinnati lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

In other NL games on Tuesday:

Expos 10, Cardinals 6 (12): Tony Batista swung at the first pitch he saw in the top of the 12th inning and led Montreal to victory with one of the most memorable homers of his career.

The Montreal third baseman hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth, then followed that with a grand slam — his 200th homer — in the 12th.

In the ninth, Batista homered just inside the left-field pole off Jason Irsinghausen. The Cardinals' Albert Pujols became the first player to hit 30 homers in each of his first four major league seasons. St. Louis lost for the second time in nine games.

Astros 3, Braves 2: Roger Clemens gave up one earned run and four hits in seven innings on the eve of his 42nd birthday, but was denied the victory by Houston's bullpen before the host Astros rebounded to stop Atlanta's five-game winning streak.

Clemens left with a 2-1 lead after walking the first two batters in the eighth. Dan



Los Angeles third baseman Adrian Beltré makes a painful attempt to catch Rob Mackowiak's pop-up Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium. Beltré did not make the catch.

Miceli (4-5) retired Charles Thomas on a forceout, then loaded the bases with a walk to Marcus Giles and allowed an RBI grounder to Chipper Jones.

Houston went ahead in the bottom of the eighth when Morgan Ensberg doubled and scored on Jose Vizcaino's ground out.

Dodgers 3, Pirates 2: At Los Angeles, Brad Penny held Pittsburgh to a pair of in-

field singles over eight scoreless innings in his first game since being traded to the Dodgers.

Penny (9-8) got past the seventh inning for the first time in 12 starts in the Dodgers' 16th win in 21 games.

Cubs 5, Rockies 3: Kerry Wood pitched eight innings despite a shaky start, and Derek Lee hit his 21st homer in a five-run second for the visiting Cubs. Wood (6-4) gave up three runs in the first, but allowed just three hits over the next seven.

Mets 12, Brewers 3: At Milwaukee, Al Leiter (8-3) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings to lower his major league-leading ERA to 2.12 as the Mets snapped a three-game losing streak.

Mike Cameron homered and drove in three runs, and Joe Mauer also had three RBIs for the Mets, who scored five times in the sixth and nine innings.

Phillies 5, Padres 2: Pinch-hitter Chase Utley drove in the go-ahead run in a three-run seventh and Brett Myers (6-8) won for the first time in nearly seven weeks.

Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 32nd homer for the visiting Phillies.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 3: Danny Bautista hit a treaking two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Arizona won at home for the first time in nearly a month.

Arizona had lost 11 straight home games, a team record.

Mixed reviews given to one-pitch

Postponements cause change to format for Marine Regionals

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Bill Chastain took a couple of steps back, preparing to field a grounder up the middle if the batter hit it his way.

"Stee-rike!" the umpire called. A look of relief crossed the face of Chastain, Marine Corps Base Camp S.D. Butler's pitcher.

It was the only strike of the at-bat. It was the only pitch of the at-bat.

"There's no margin for error," Chastain said of the one-pitch format used for the first seven games of Wednesday's round-robin play in the Marine Forces Pacific Regional Softball Tournament.

"That's one pitch. You can't just look," added Chastain's teammate, outfielder Israel Stone.

The use of the one-pitch format — a first in the tournament's almost 30 years of existence — was made necessary by heavy rain that postponed seven round-robin games Tuesday.

Marine Corps Community Services Okinawa Semper Fit Athletics, which oversees the Marine Regional tournament program, chose the format to get the tournament back on schedule. The only other option, officials said, would have been canceling the games.

"Much as we dislike doing this, we either do it or each team has two less games to play," Sonny Jones of Semper Fit Athletics said.

The one-pitch games started at 9 a.m. and were played in less than five hours, putting the tournament back on schedule. Wednesday's other seven games started on time, at 2 p.m., and were played under regular Amateur Softball Association rules.

The one-pitch format drew mixed reviews from players and coaches.

"Pitchers who throw strikes will like one-pitch. First-pitch batters will like one-pitch," said coach Todd Harding of Okinawa's 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. "Pitchers who struggle to get the ball over the plate will hate it."

"It makes you more aggressive," Wing's Carlos Cardoza said. "It's tough. You're up at bat, you're having to concentrate more. This is different. You have to bring it up a level."

"It makes your guys step up," Jones added. "You either do or die."

At least one coach felt other op-



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

1st Marine Aircraft Wing second baseman Kyle Leduc reads a relay throw to first base after forcing out Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Aubrey Evans on Wednesday at Camp Foster, Okinawa. Wing beat Hawaii 7-3.

tions could have been explored, such as starting each batter with a two-ball, one-strike count.

"They can look at a couple of pitches rather than make a hasty decision," said Base coach Kirk Hogan. "I don't think it [one-pitch] should be a regular part of the tournament."

But in Cardoza's eyes, using the format didn't change much. Since all seven teams were subjected to the same change and pressures, the playing field was level.

"This is regionals," Cardoza said. "You could be down 4-1 and get a 20-run rally, using one-pitch format or otherwise."

It did change the way coaches and tournament officials had to evaluate players who might be selected to attend the All-Marine tryout camp later this month at Cherry Point Air Station, N.C.

Noting how pressure increases in one-pitch at-bats, Jones said, "Maybe some of these guys do better under pressure than others."

One former All-Marine player made the radical suggestion that softball adopt a one-pitch, nine-inning format at all levels.

"The games would be less boring," said Chad Calvert of Okinawa's 3rd Marine Division/Expeditionary Force. "Something would always happen on every pitch."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauid@stpsides.odm

Marine Forces Pacific Regional Softball Tournament

At Field 1, Foster Field Complex, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Final round-robin standings
(listed in order of playoff seedings)

W-L Pct. GB	
3rd Force, Okinawa	5-1 .833 -
Wing, Okinawa	5-1 .833 -
Hawaii	2-2 .500 1
Base, Okinawa	2-2 .500 1
Division, Okinawa	2-2 .500 1
Iwakuni, Japan	1-3 .250 2
Hospital, Okinawa	0-6 .000 5

Wednesday's scores

Wing 10, Iwakuni 5	
Base 6, Division 3	
3rd Force 14, Hawaii 2	
Wing 9, Division 8	
Base 6, 3rd Force 9	
Wing 17, Hospital 5	
Base 14, Hospital 2	
Division 18, Iwakuni 6	
3rd Force 17, Hospital 5	
Wing 9, Base 5	
Hawaii 10, Iwakuni 3	

Double-elimination playoffs

Game 1 — Marine Corps Base Hawaii vs. 3rd Marine Division/Expeditionary Force	
Game 2 — Marine Corps Base Camp S.D. Butler, Okinawa vs. Iwakuni Air Station, Japan	
Game 3 — U.S. Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, Okinawa vs. 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa	
Game 4 — Game 2 loser vs. Game 3 loser	
Game 5 — Game 1 winner vs. 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa	
Game 6 — Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner	
Game 7 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 6 loser	
Game 8 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 loser	

Friday's games

Game 9 — Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner	
Game 10 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner	
Game 11 — Game 9 loser vs. Game 10 loser	
Game 12 — Game 9 winner vs. Game 11 winner	
Game 13 — Game 9 winner vs. Game 11 winner, if Game 9 winner loses Game 12	

Dallas cuts Carter

Surprising move leaves Testaverde as the starting QB in training camp

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — Quincy Carter was cut by the Dallas Cowboys on Wednesday, leaving the team with 40-year-old Vinny Testaverde as the starting quarterback.

"We made a decision to move in a different direction," owner Jerry Jones said during a news conference. "This on my part was not a difficult decision at all, though it is very disappointing, very disappointing."

The third-year player, who started every game last season, came to camp expecting to be the team's No. 1 QB.

"I'm saddened by this turn of events, I really am," coach Bill Parcells said. "I just couldn't keep him in the plans."

Jones and Parcells declined to give specifics on why the move was made.

"I'm not going to get into a definition of what was about," Jones said.

Carter's agent, Eugene Parker, did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

After practice, Parcells gave the players some sort of explanation about Carter's departure, but players declined to comment on the discussion.

"I think I probably speak for all the guys who have disappointed we are that Quincy is no longer going to be part of this team," Testaverde said. "But at the same time we know we have to look forward to getting things down and go out and win games."

Testaverde said Carter stopped by camp Wednesday morning and told him and several other players goodbye. Testaverde said he didn't know just why Carter was cut and didn't want to speculate.

"We're shocked, just like everybody else," safety Roy Williams said. "We're mind-boggled like everybody else is."

The Cowboys drafted Carter in the second round out of Georgia in 2001. He was picked as the



In 31 games for the Cowboys, Quincy Carter threw for 5,839 yards and had 29 touchdown passes and 36 interceptions.

starter to replace Troy Aikman during his first training camp, but he struggled and only started the first eight games. He went 3-5, completing 90 of 176 passes for 1,072 yards, five touchdowns and seven interceptions.

The next season, he emerged from camp as the starter again, leading Dallas to a 3-4 record before losing the job to Chad Hutchinson.

Last season, the Cowboys went 10-5 with Carter starting and returned to the playoffs in Parcells' first year in Dallas. Carter threw for 3,402 yards, but had 21 interceptions and 17 touchdowns.

He was intercepted at least twice in a game six times.

Wednesday's surprising move leaves three quarterbacks in camp for the Cowboys: Testaverde, who is reuniting with Parcells; Drew Henson, an NFL rookie after trying to play major league baseball; and unproven second-year player Tony Romo.

Dallas opens the regular season at Minnesota on Sept. 12.

Roethlisberger makes debut

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

LATROBE, Pa. — No matter how many passes he completed in college, no matter how many millions he now has in the bank, Ben Roethlisberger was just like any other football player on his first official day in a new uniform.

Nervous. Really nervous.

"Without question," Roethlisberger said Wednesday after his first training camp practice with the Pittsburgh Steelers. "It felt like the first day of minicamp all over again. Tommy [Maddox] and I were laughing about it. You need to get out there and get the first play out [of the way]."

That first play was nothing remarkable for the most-watched Steelers rookie quarterback since Terry Bradshaw in 1970.

Lining up under center from

the 20-yard line in a 7-on-7 passing drill, Roethlisberger overthrew wide receiver Plaxico Burress near the goal line.

On the next play, Roethlisberger threatened a pass through heavy coverage to Burress at the 1.

So much for nerves. "I had a chance to throw to Plax for the first time and I overthrew him because I was so excited, so I came back and got him the next time," Roethlisberger said. "The butterflies were gone and it was good to get back out there."

The former Miami (Ohio) star missed the first four practices of camp before signing a contract that guarantees him \$9 million in bonuses by March. Still, he spent more than a month with the team during minicamp and at the voluntary coaching sessions this spring, and he picked up much of the offense then.

Brown's days as a Raider are over after 16 years

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — Tim Brown is leaving the Oakland Raiders after 16 prolific seasons.

Unwilling to accept the prospect of reduced playing time, the 38-year-old receiver accepted owner Al Davis' decision to part ways with the last former member of the Los Angeles Raiders. Davis announced his intentions in a news conference with Brown on Wednesday at the Raiders' training camp headquarters.

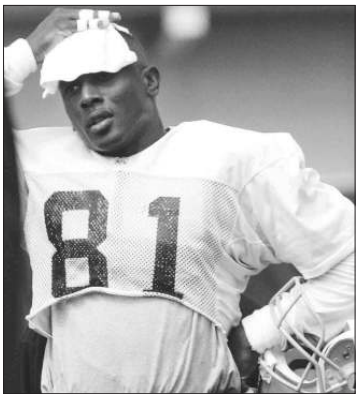
Oakland plans to release Brown on Thursday. The self-proclaimed "Mr. Raider" holds most of the club's receiving records, and his 240 games in silver and black are the most in club history. "I didn't want to be a distraction," Brown said. "I think those guys have great respect for me, and I think you lose some of that if you accept a role where you're not playing. ... When you've played at the level I've played at, it's tough to be on the sidelines waving a towel."

Brown ranks second in the NFL with 14,734 yards receiving and third with 1,070 catches. His 99 touchdowns receptions are tied with Don Hutson for fourth, and his 14,734 all-purpose yards are fifth.

"It's emotionally difficult. It's a part of your life," Davis said. "Other than your family, this is your family. We've had many players, but these are certain players you fall for. It's tough to lose him."

Brown won the Heisman Trophy at Notre Dame before the Raiders drafted him in 1988. His son, estate established himself as an elite receiver, appearing in nine Pro Bowls and going nine straight seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving from 1993-2001.

Brown had 52 catches for 567 yards and two touchdowns last



Wide receiver Tim Brown, 38, ranks second in NFL history in yards receiving (14,734), third in receptions (1,070), tied for fourth in touchdown catches (99) and fifth in all-purpose yards (14,734).

season, but his streak of 175 started in December. He fell out of favor with former coach Bill Callahan, and also didn't fit into the plans of new coach Norv Turner. Jerry Porter and 41-year-old Jerry Rice will be the Raiders' top receivers this season, and Turner expects big things from Ronald Curry and Alvis Whitted.

Though Brown's quiet style seemed at odds with the Raiders' brass image, he was one of the team's most popular players even during the franchise's dismal seasons after returning to Oakland.

Brown knew he would have a reduced role this season, though he entered training camp planning to be the Raiders' third receiver. But Turner and his staff intend to give their younger receivers the chance to play complementary roles to Rice and Porter — and Brown didn't want to be a part-time player.

"I certainly think the Raiders are going to be a very good football team this year," Brown said. "That's another reason why it's so disappointing. This won't be the end of Tim Brown. I'll surface somewhere else, probably."

ing he wanted to give the tackle more time to learn the offensive system.

Mularky said he expected Williams to win back his starting job from Marcus Price.

Williams said he apologized to his teammates on Wednesday to help clear the air, telling them he was dealing with personal issues.

Titans LB Sirmon out for year
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee starting linebacker Peter Sirmon tore ligaments in his left knee and probably will miss the season. The team believes he will need reconstructive surgery.

Vikings C Birk hurting
MANKATO, Minn. — Pro Bowl center Matt Birk left Minnesota's

camp for a follow-up examination on a pelvic injury that has sidelined him for practice the past two days.

Coach Mike Tice said the worst-case scenario is Birk would miss 2-3 weeks, and that he's been guaranteed Birk will be ready for the opener Sept. 12 against Dallas.

Cardinals reach terms with 2nd-round pick Dansby
FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Outside linebacker Carlos Dansby, the first player drafted in this year's second round, agreed to a four-year contract with the Arizona Cardinals on Wednesday.

The team did not release terms, but Dansby's agent, Carl Peston, told The Arizona Republic the deal was worth about \$5 million, including a \$2.1 million signing bonus.

Viking conquers Hall of Fame

Former Minnesota Vikings star Carl Eller will be formally enshrined into the Hall of Fame on Sunday along with fellow football greats, Bob Brown, John Elway, and Barry Sanders.

CARL ELLER • Defensive End
1964-78 Minnesota Vikings
1979 Seattle Seahawks

Drafted: Selected 1st round (6th overall) in 1964 by Minnesota Vikings; also in the 1st round (5th overall) of the AFL draft by the Buffalo Bills

Pro career: 16 seasons; 225 games

► Excellent at stopping the run; devastating pass-rusher

► Selected to six Pro Bowls 1969-72, 1974-75

► Named first- or second-team All-NFL each season, 1967-73

"Did not play" Photo credit: Pro Football Hall of Fame

Eller



AP

Purple People Eater Eller finally gets call

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Success came quickly for Carl Eller, a mainstay on a Minnesota Vikings defensive line that dominated the NFL for more than a decade as the Purple People Eaters.

Eller's enshrinement into the Pro Football Hall of Fame required some patience, though. A final five names before the call finally came in January.

Along with John Elway, Barry Sanders and Bob Brown, he will be inducted Sunday in Canton, Ohio.

"The wait has certainly made me more excited," said Eller, who finished his career in Seattle in 1979. "I'm glad it happened, and I certainly appreciate it."

What he appreciates the most, actually, is the amount of time he got to spend on good teams with good friends.

A first-round draft pick out of the University of Minnesota in 1964, Eller became a regular at left end as a rookie. He held his job for 15 seasons — tormenting blockers and quarterbacks around the league, forming a feared front four with Alan Page, Jim Marshall and Gary Larsen and helping lead the Vikings to four Super Bowls from 1969-77.

Eller, Page and Marshall all live in the Twin Cities and see each other regularly.

"When we're together, it's just like old times," said Eller, Minnesota's career sacks leader with 130. "We dominated the opposing teams, but some of them were a while. That's one of the great things about sports: the competitiveness. It's win or lose ... there's not a lot of gray matter in there."

Eller — who will be introduced on Sunday by his son, Regis — certainly had the respect of his opponents. Brown, an offensive tackle, called Eller one of the toughest pass rushers he ever faced. "I had great combat with Carl Eller," Brown said. "Every time I saw Carl Eller, he had his 'A' game going and I had my 'A' game going, too. Because if I didn't have my 'A' game going, then I was going to look like a jerk."

Nicknamed "The Moose," Eller will be the seventh member of the Vikings in the Hall. Page, quarterback Fran Tarkenton, safety Paul Krause, offensive tackle Ron Yary, coach Bud Grant and administrator Jim Finks are the others.

"It's good to be excellent — to be efficient — was really a manifestation, I think, of what those teams were all about," Page said. "It wasn't about individual glory."

A North Carolina native, Eller was on a division winner in 10 of his last 11 seasons with the Vikings. He used his quickness and 6-foot-6, 250-pound frame to earn five All-Pro selections.

"Carl was a complete football player," Page said. "I don't know if that could pinpoint any particular strength. One of the beauties of those teams, particularly the front four, was that we all complemented each other so well that it was hard to say where somebody's strength ended and somebody else's began."

"You don't achieve greatness without being able to play a lot of games," Grant said. "Durability is the greatest ability you can have."

The Vikings made a strong push to get Eller and Marshall elected this year, because it was their last chance as modern-era candidates. Those who have been retired longer than 25 years have a tougher time getting in, since there are only two senior players among the 15 finalists.

Eller was disappointed Marshall didn't get in, and he can relate — having missed out so many times himself.

Still active in the community, primarily with programs for inner-city youth, Eller has thoroughly enjoyed life in Minnesota.

The local fan support, he said, made it easy to cope with the disappointment of four Super Bowl losses and the waiting for his call from Canton.

"That's really what kept me going," Eller said. "They always told me I was a Hall of Famer in their book."

Bills OT Williams returns to camp

The Associated Press

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills tackle Mike Williams returned to practice Wednesday morning.

Coach Mike Mularky fined Williams for missing practice Tuesday, a day after being excused from Monday afternoon's practice for personal reasons.

Williams said he missed Tuesday's practice due to "personal problems." He did not provide details, saying only that the situation had been resolved.

"Everything is behind me, and I'm very comfortable," Williams said. "The family is fine and everything is great right now."

Williams had missed several voluntary minicamp sessions in June because of a death in his family. Mularky then demoted him to the Bills' second team, say-



NFL
free

Mularky said he expected Williams to win back his starting job from Marcus Price.

Williams said he apologized to his teammates on Wednesday to help clear the air, telling them he was dealing with personal issues.

Titans LB Sirmon out for year
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee starting linebacker Peter Sirmon tore ligaments in his left knee and probably will miss the season. The team believes he will need reconstructive surgery.

Vikings C Birk hurting
MANKATO, Minn. — Pro Bowl center Matt Birk left Minnesota's

SPORTS



WR Brown released after
16 seasons in silver and black,
Page 31

Seeds of controversy

Ejected from his son's youth league game? Clemens says it didn't happen

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens was in no mood to celebrate the Houston Astros' latest victory or his 42nd birthday.

The Rocket walked purposefully into the clubhouse Tuesday night, bat in his right hand, to make his case. It didn't take long before the anger within him bubbled to the surface.

"This is a shame and it's not even an issue," Clemens said, emotion choking his voice. "It's very scary that it affects my family. A lot of people owe my family an apology."

Clemens pitched seven strong innings on the eve of his birthday in Houston's 3-2 win over the Atlanta Braves, but he was clearly upset as he publicly addressed his ejection Saturday from his 10-year-old son's youth league game in Craig, Colo.

After his son was called out on a close play, Clemens was banished to the parking lot after an umpire accused him of spitting a sunflower seed at him.

The Rocket had apparently been waiting to tell his side of the story, making his postgame comments from the coaches' room of the clubhouse instead of the usual spot in front of his locker.

Clemens started out calmly, even joking with reporters about the ejection at first. But he grew more exasperated with each question, finally going on a five-minute tirade.

"I guess, I'm a champion seed-spitter," Clemens said. "I was probably a good 20 yards from the field. I've been able to see ... comments like I was nose-to-nose and toe-to-toe and arguing. I was sitting on a bucket talking to fans and signing in between."

He denied even being tossed from the game, saying that he went to the car — as he always does — toward the end of the game and didn't even see the disputed play.

"They did not ask me to leave. I did not know that I was even supposedly thrown out," Clemens said. "I go to my car every day to plan my escape route after I sign."

"One of the coaches told me that they threw me out and I said 'Why did they throw me out?' I'm not even a coach or even on the field. One of the coaches told me that he got nervous and his [umpire's] lips were quivering because he was nervous or he messed up or something."

Since leaving Colorado, Clemens said he's received two apologies — he declined to identify

who made them — and hundreds of calls from people expressing dismay about his treatment while there.

"We got the great phone calls from the people that mattered that were there and they were just appalled by the entire situation," Clemens said. "One guy just wanted to get his name in the paper."

A short time later, Clemens sighed deeply as if to calm himself then hurriedly walked out of the clubhouse.

Clemens' postgame fury overshadowed another impressive outing on the mound, although he did not factor in the decision.

Clemens allowed four hits in seven strong innings, leaving with a 2-1 lead after walking the first two batters in the eighth.

"They did not ask me to leave. I did not know that I was even supposedly thrown out. I go to my car every day to plan my escape route after I sign. One of the coaches told me that they threw me out and I said 'Why did they throw me out?' I'm not even a coach or even on the field."

Roger Clemens

Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens reacts after walking Atlanta Braves' Chipper Jones during Tuesday's game in Houston. Clemens pitched seven innings but did not get the decision in the Astros' 3-2 victory.

AP



Cowboys make surprising change at quarterback, cut Quincy Carter

Page 30



Two-homer night for Hatteberg as Mudler scores rare win in Bronx

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One-pitch format speeds play in Marine Forces regional tournament

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"I guess I'm a champion seed-spitter. I was probably a good 20 yards from the field. ... I was sitting on a bucket talking to fans and signing in between."

Roger Clemens

